VIZ shôjo

BASARA™

Story and Art by Yumi Tamura

Vol. 3

shôjo

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Shôjo Edition

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Publisher/Seiji Horibuchi

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First published by Shogakukan, Inc. in Japan as
"Basara"

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Printed in Canada.

Published by VIZ, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

Shojo Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First Printing, November 2003

store.viz.com

www.viz.com

STORY THUS FAR

In the early 21st century, an apocalypse turned fertile lands into deserts and brought human civilization to its knees. Control of Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. 300 years later, a new hope was born.

At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village placed their hopes in their Chieftain's son Tatara and raised him as the "Boy of Destiny."

With the tyrannical Ukon XV ruling Japan through his ruthless sons, a better tomorrow can only be achieved by means of strife and bloodshed. When the "Boy of Destiny" is killed by the Red King's forces, it is up to his twin sister to secretly take up his sword and fulfill the prophecy of their birth. Sarasa must lead her people in her brother's name or all will be lost.

Following a terrible defeat, Sarasa's reluctance to put others at risk inspires her to journey alone to Sakurajima in Kyushu to search for old allies. With luck, bravery and Ageha's aid, Sarasa succeeds in entering the Red King's capital and reaching Kyushu through the dangerous but unguarded Kanmon Tunnel, where she briefly meets the ancient Suzaku rebel Rasho.

In Kyushu, Sarasa meets Hayato, a boy who's masquerading as Tatara for the Red King's cousin, Shido. Hayato's deal with Shido ends in death for others. Disillusioned, Hayato joins the "real Tatara." En route, they observe the Red King's newest ship–the mighty Battleship Crimson–which casts a shadow over Sarasa's confidence. Interestingly, it's a chance encounter with Shuri that restores her faith. After saving Shuri from an assassination attempt, she's given a carrier parrot so they might begin courting with love letters.

Unaware Shido is hunting "Tatara," Sarasa hastens to Sakurajima. But her quest to find allies in Suzaku Village has been in vain–the village has been sunk beneath the waves of Kagoshima Bay for years, along with the rest of Sakurajima.

Sarasa (disguised as Tatara)

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made. "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tatara was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up mostly in his shadow. When the Red King's forces kill Tatara, Sarasa takes up her brother's name and fights in his guise, not realizing that *she* is the real Child of Destiny. Only visits to hot springs offer Sarasa the privacy to indulge her true identity. There, she has met a curious young man named Shuri, who has become her only outlet for being completely herself.

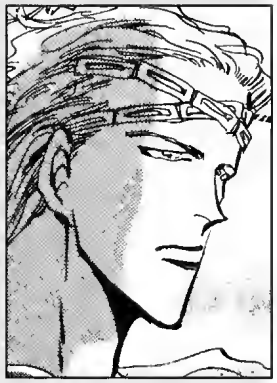
The Red King

In charge of the Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of the King of Japan's four sons. Prophesied to bring misfortune to his father, King Ukon branded him a slave. Only a privileged few call him by his name–Shuri. Hounded by threats from abroad and his family, he is a ruthless but effective ruler, crushing those who oppose him. The destruction of Byakko Village is just one in a long list of rebel groups he has suppressed. Ignorant of her secret identity and hiding his own, Shuri's interactions with Sarasa reveal hints of his unhealthy family history and his desire to unite Japan in peace. Seemingly intent on courting, he has given Sarasa a whistle to call a carrier parrot so they might write to each other during their travels.

Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a King and arranging for 1,000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. He also has a secret identity–Kicho, a famous performer among a traveling troupe of dancing ladies. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for his rescue of 12-year-old Sarasa. Now, he is "Tatara's" slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.

Shido

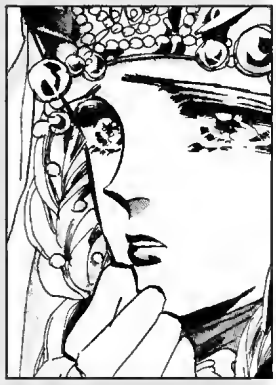


In charge of Kyushu, Shido is the Red King's cousin and trusted friend. He is also known as "Shido the Buddha" for the combination of his soothing countenance and his ability to send thousands to Heaven during times of conflict. To lighten Shuri's burden, Shido has taken over the hunt for Tatara. Ageha was once his family's slave.

Hayato

This brave, if naïve, young man made a deal with Shido. In exchange for pretending to be Tatara and bringing those who joined him to the bargaining table, Hayato would receive medicine for his sick mother. The deal ended in an ambush, claiming the lives of many would-be rebels. Then his mother died from her illness. So Hayato has thrown his lot in with "Tatara" and become the resourceful traveling companion of the "Boy of Destiny."

Senju



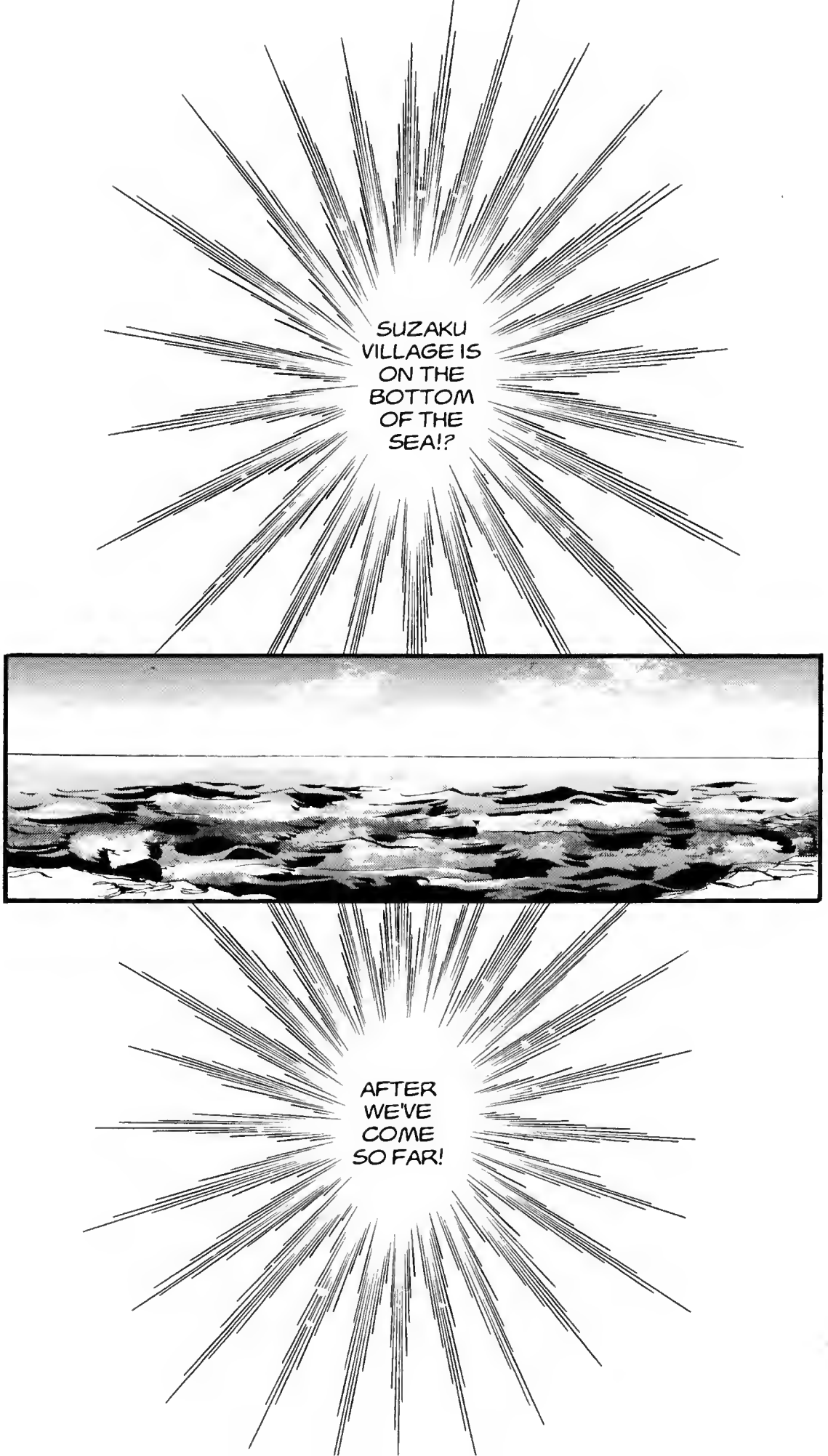
A privileged princess, Senju's lady-like demeanor hides her passionate heart. Deeply in love with her fiancée, Shido, her fear for his safety spurs her to drastically improper actions. A late-night visit to Shido ends in a secret marriage before he sets across the desert to seek Tatara in southern Kyushu.

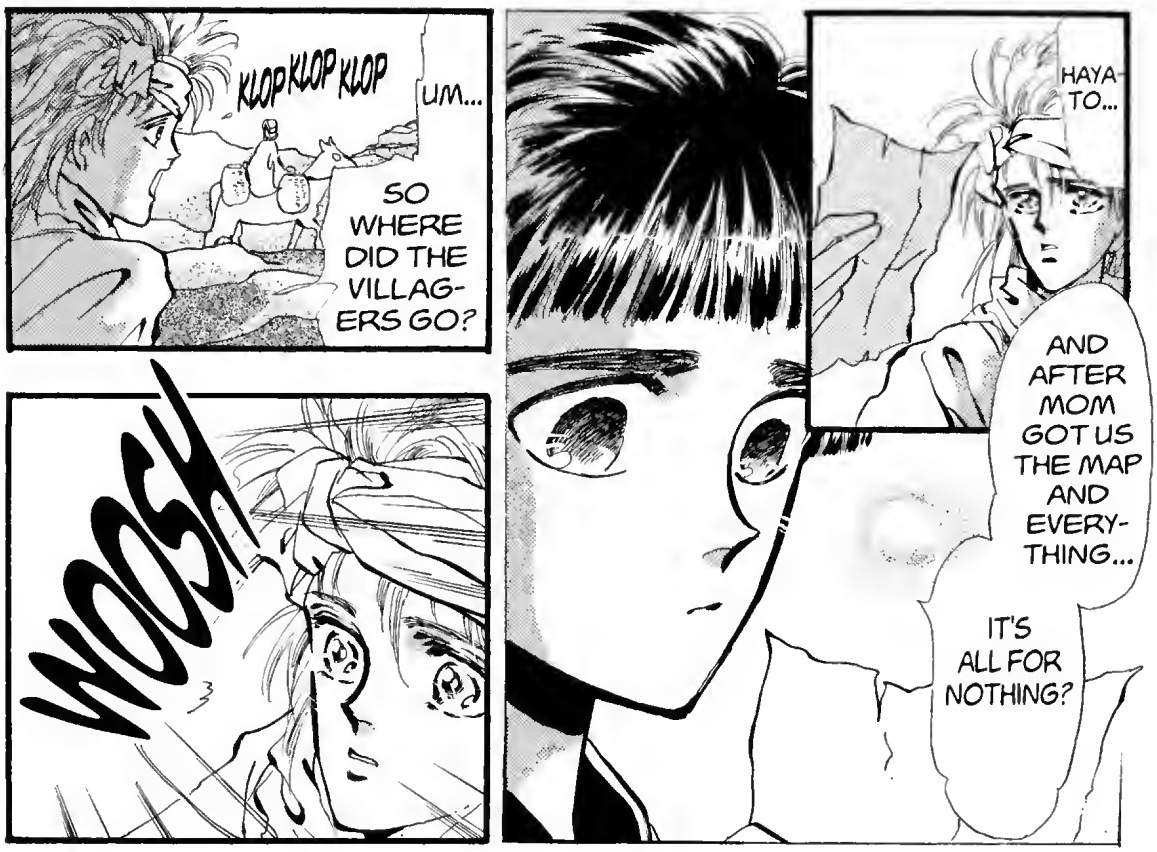
Kaku

This one-time sailor was something akin to a military advisor and trainer in Byakko Village. A strong leader and fighter, Kaku is loyal to Sarasa's family and the cause of the "Boy of Destiny." He has risked his life many times for Sarasa and was thought lost in the conflict on the bridge at Tsuyama. Kaku, the prophet Nagi, and Sarasa's mother are the only ones who know Sarasa has taken her brother's place.

GO TO SAKURA-JIMA.
THEY WILL BE YOUR FRIENDS.
SAKURA-JIMA...
...HAS SUNK...
...AND TAKEN SUZAKU VILLAGE WITH IT!?

CHARTREUSE TALE 3:
THE PIRATE SHIP


SUZAKU VILLAGE IS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA!?
AFTER WE'VE COME SO FAR!



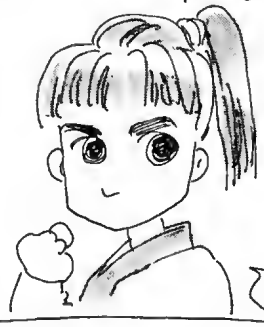
TINY TAM-TAM TIME ①

HAYATO

Aries, blood type O, I guess; I'm not sure.

He's about a year younger than Sarasa.

Hayato will probably grow up to be a tough guy, Kyushu style.



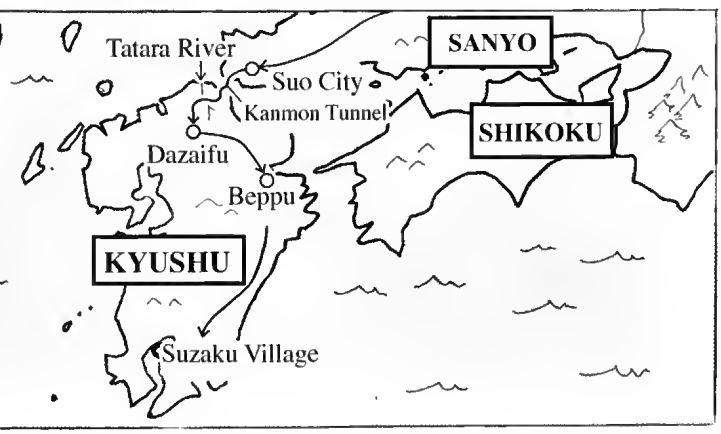
He's good with the bow.

To all the girls who sadly wrote, "I look just like Hayato when I put my hair in a ponytail," I ask, "so what?" ♡

He's still cute. ♡ Tee hee!

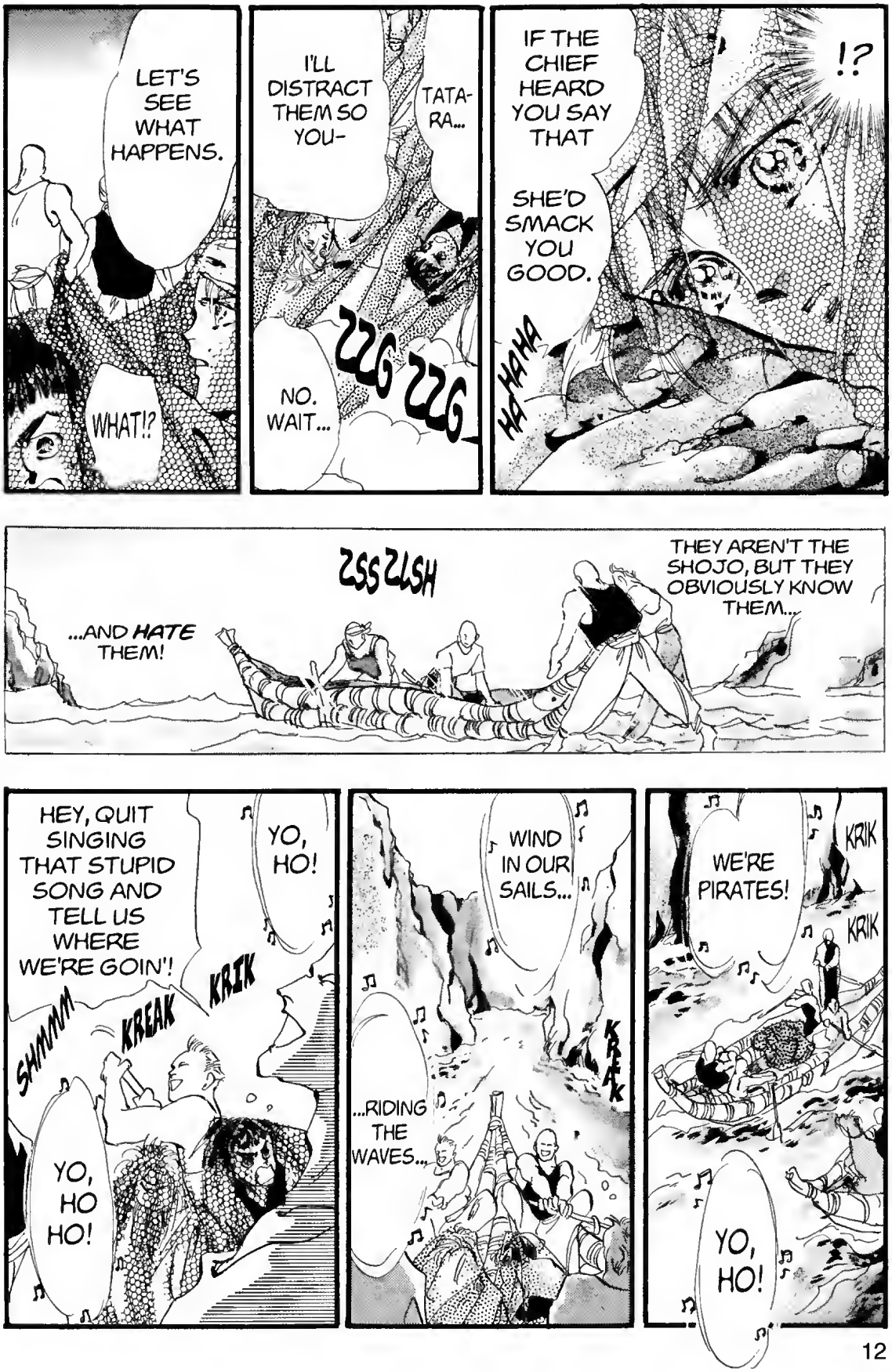
TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY

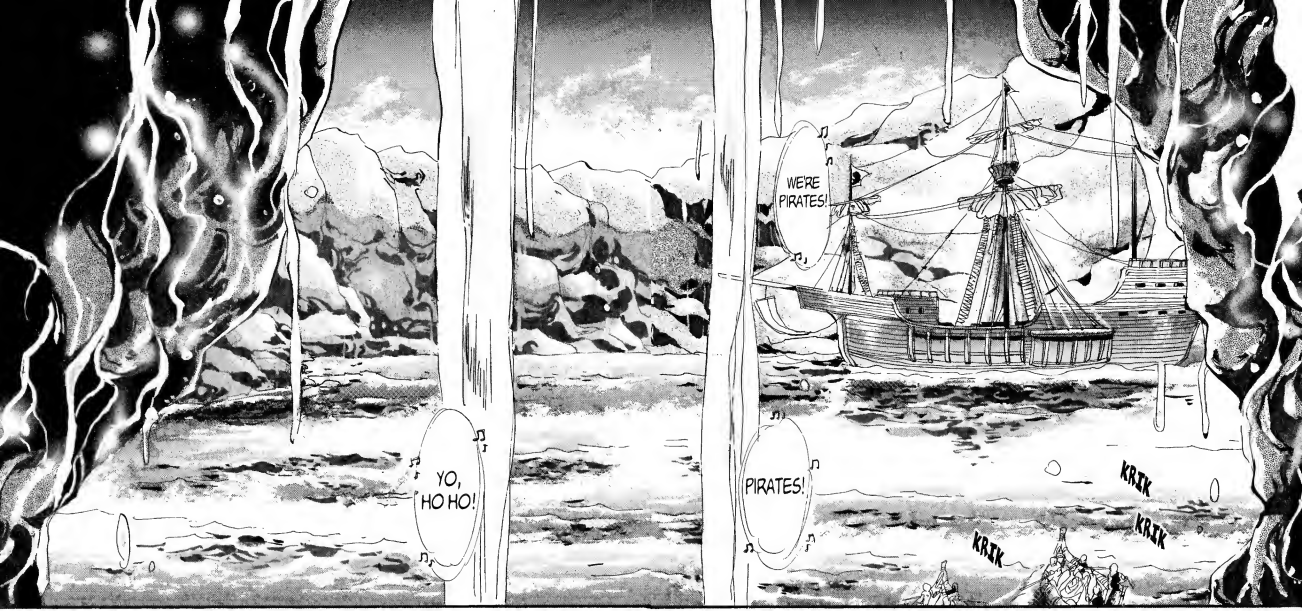


SWOOSH
WHAT THE-!?
FWIP
WOOSH
HAYATO!
WHOA!
FWUP

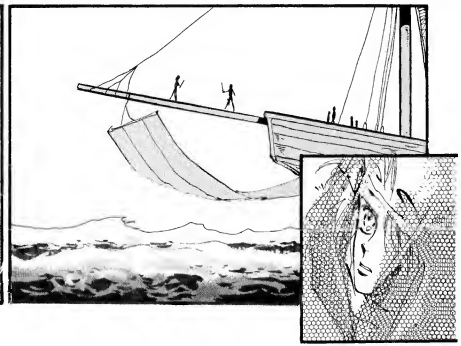
SHF
SHF
SHOJO?
DON'T ASSOCIATE US WITH THOSE BASTARDS.
THEY KNEW WE CAME TO FIGHT THEM.
SO THEY MADE THE FIRST MOVE.
OR-
OR ARE YOU THE SHOJO CLAN!?
I'M NO FISH!
ARG!
WHAT IS THIS!?
LEMME GO, DAMMIT!
ARE YOU MEN FROM THE RED ARMY!?


LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
WHAT!?
I'LL DISTRACT THEM SO YOU-
TATA-RA...
ZZG ZZG
NO. WAIT...
IF THE CHIEF HEARD YOU SAY THAT
SHE'D SMACK YOU GOOD.
!?
HAHAHA
...AND HATE THEM!
ZSS ZLSH
THEY AREN'T THE SHOJO, BUT THEY OBVIOUSLY KNOW THEM...
HEY, QUIT SINGING THAT STUPID SONG AND TELL US WHERE WE'RE GOIN'!
YO, HO!
SHMMM
KREAK
KRIK
YO, HO HO!
WIND IN OUR SAILS...
...RIDING THE WAVES...
KREAK
WE'RE PIRATES!
KRIK
KRIK
YO, HO!

SHMSHM
WHERE DOES ALL THE WATER COME FROM!?
A WATER-FALL!
SHMMM
...IS OURS.
HEY! YOU'RE HEADING STRAIGHT FOR IT!
WHAT'S OURS...
KREAK
THE WATER!
IT STOPPED!
YO, HO HO!
YO, HO!
KRIK
KREAK
AND SO IS...
...WHAT'S YOURS!
SHMSHM


WE'RE PIRATES!
YO, HO HO!
PIRATES!
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK

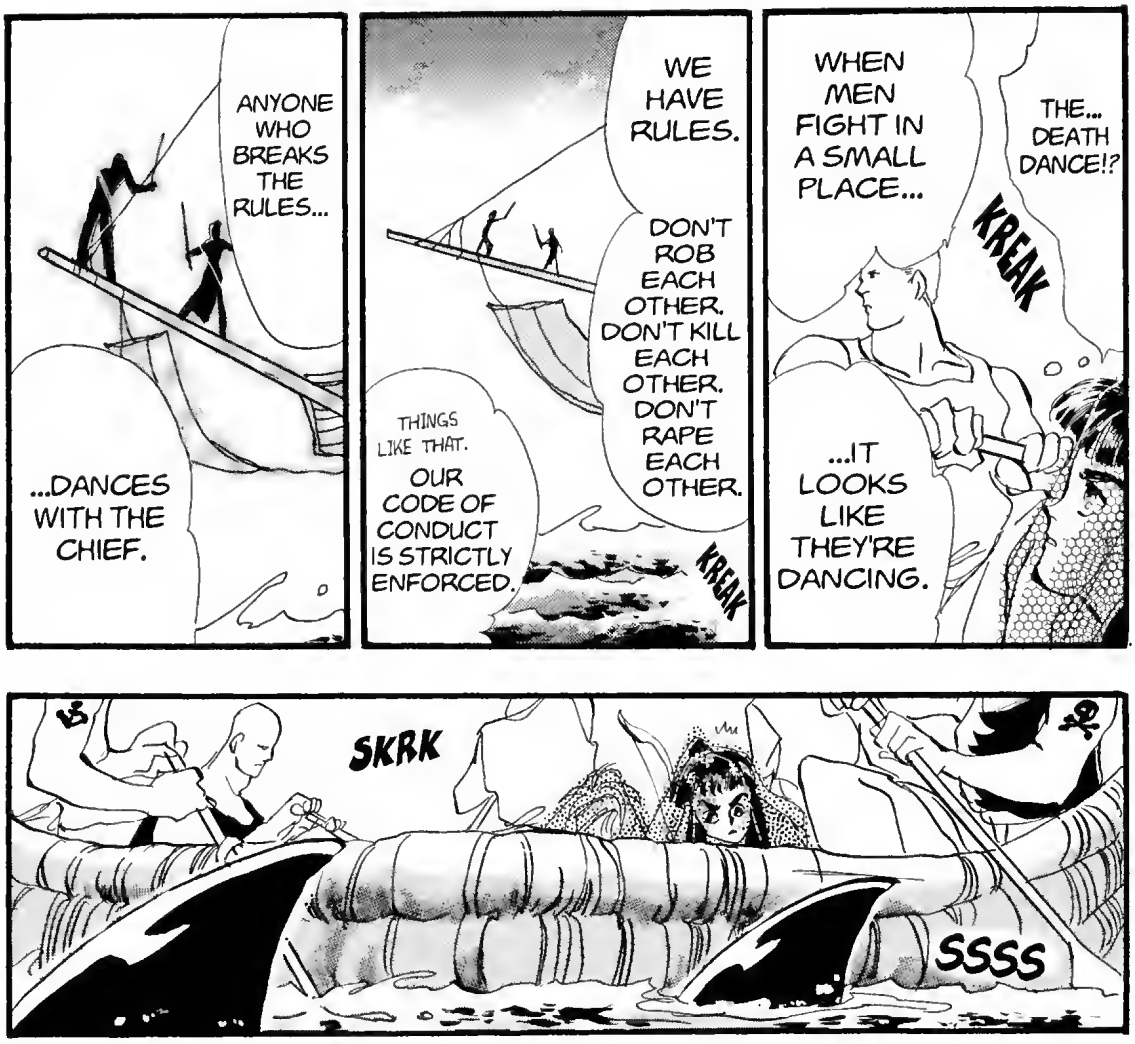
SOME-ONE MUST'VE BROKEN THE RULES.
THE DEATH DANCE.
SKRK
SKRK

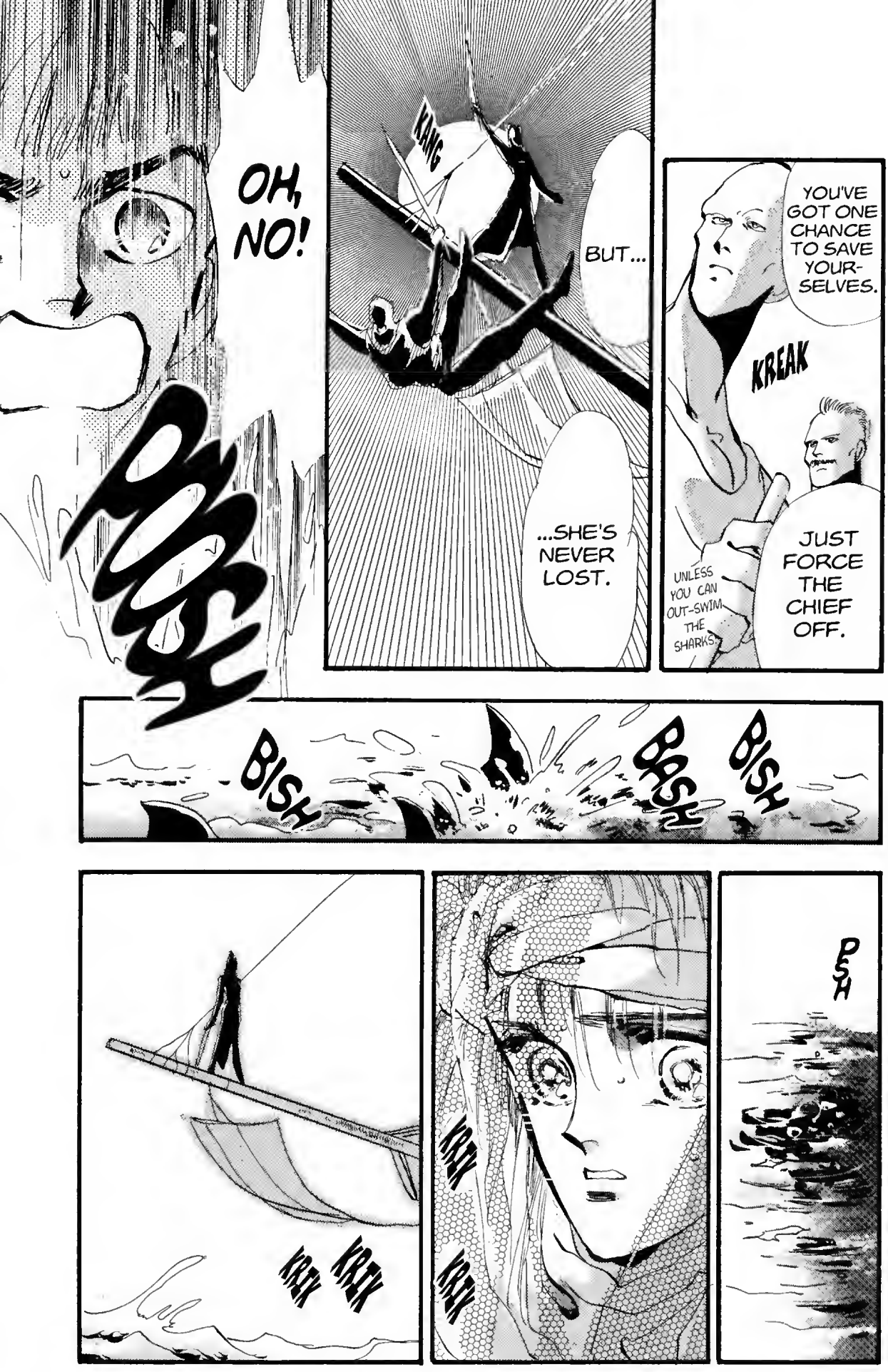


LET'S HURRY IT UP.
THE CHIEF'S WAITING.
PSH PSH
SKRK
SKRK

THAT SHIP IS OUR HOME.
A HID-DEN PORT!
KRIK

SHMSHM


ANYONE WHO BREAKS THE RULES...
...DANCES WITH THE CHIEF.
WE HAVE RULES.
DON'T ROB EACH OTHER. DON'T KILL EACH OTHER. DON'T RAPE EACH OTHER.
KREAK
THINGS LIKE THAT.
OUR CODE OF CONDUCT IS STRICTLY ENFORCED.
WHEN MEN FIGHT IN A SMALL PLACE...
THE... DEATH DANCE!?
KREAK
...IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE DANCING.
SKRK
SSSS
YUP.
H-HEY...
YOU'LL GET A ONE-WAY TICKET TO ITS STOMACH IF YOU FALL OVERBOARD.
THERE'S A SHARK!


OH, NO!
KANG
BUT...
...SHE'S NEVER LOST.
YOU'VE GOT ONE CHANCE TO SAVE YOUR-SELVES.
KREAK
JUST FORCE THE CHIEF OFF.
UNLESS YOU CAN OUT-SWIM THE SHARKS.
BISH
BASH
BISH
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
PSH

KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK

THAT'S A SORRY PAIR.
SHE'S PRETTY!
COULDN'T YOU FIND ANYTHING BETTER?
A COUPLE OF LAND-LUBBERS.
PHEW, I'M BEAT.
CHIEF!
WE'RE BACK!
YOU GET ENOUGH TO SELL?
SURE.
AND FIND 'EM BETTER CLOTHES.
ZAKI.
CLEAN 'EM UP.
YOU'RE GONNA BE SOLD OFF
AS SLAVES TO FOREIGN COUN-TRIES.
WOMEN FETCH A TIDY SUM, O' COURSE, BUT PRETTY BOYS ARE POPULAR, TOO.
"PRETTY" IS A STRETCH FOR YOU, THOUGH.
HUH.
DON'T HAVE A HINT, DO YOU?

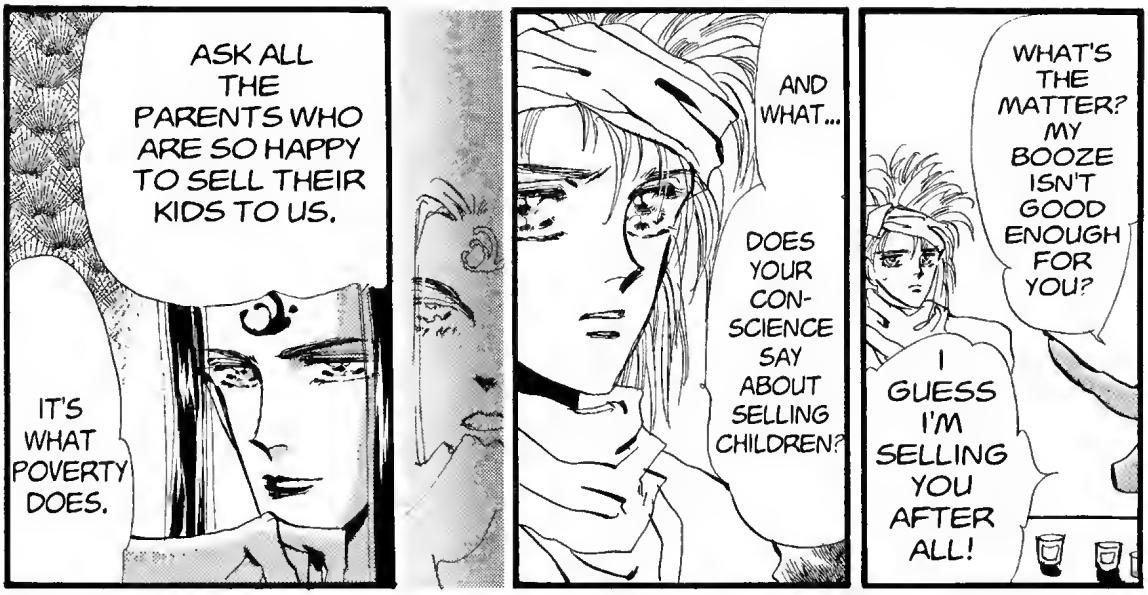
YOU'VE GOT QUITE A TOY THERE.
WE COULD SELL THIS...
SHM
I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE FRIEND OR FOE.
BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE CHANCE...
EH?
HOW WOULD YOU KNOW?
SHOULD I TELL THEM?
I REMEMBER SEEING A SWORD JUST LIKE THIS...
HUH...
MY NAME...
...IS TATARA.
THE SUZAKU SWORD!?

I CAME TO RECOVER THE SUZAKU SWORD,
TO DEFEAT THE SHOJO CLAN, THEN, ONE DAY, THE RED ARMY.
I CAME TO FORM AN ALLIANCE,
TO JOIN WITH SYMPATHETIC MEMBERS OF THE SUZAKU VILLAGE.
WE SET SAIL TOMORROW. SCRUB EVERYTHING CLEAN!
SCRB SCRB
AYE. AYE.
LIFT TOTE
TURN THE LAMPS ON.
BUT WATCH THE FUEL.
♫♪♫♪
YO, HO.
♫♪
HEY, TIME TO SWITCH SHIFTS.
MM.
HUSSLE
BUSSLE
HO, HO HO. HO, HO.
ZZZ

I DON'T WANNA BE SOLD!
OR BE SHARK FOOD!
HEY, TA-TARA.
I'M IMPRESSED.
SHE'S THE ONE KEEPING IT ALL UNDER CON-TROL.
I DIDN'T THINK A BAND OF OUT-LAWS...
...WOULD BE SO WELL DISCIPLINED AND ALERT.
AH!
WHAT CAN I DO!?
LOT OF 'EM JOINED THE SHOJOS AND GOT AWAY IN BIG SHIPS.
THEY SAY THE VILLAGERS SCAT-TERED.
SOME WENT T' LIVE ON LAND.
...AN' FAILED. SO THEY TURNED INTO PIRATES.
SOME TRIED TO BE FISHER-MEN...
I HEARD YOU TWO COME TO SEE SAKURA-JIMA.
OOF.
WELL,
ROLL
ROLL
IT SANK INTO THE SEA 'FORE I WAS BORN.

SAKURA-JIMA IS DEAD.
IT WILL NO LONGER ERUPT.
AN OLD WIVES TALE, MAYBE.
THAT WAS LONG AGO.
THE PEOPLE ON THIS SHIP WERE SUZAKU VILLAGERS?
THEY'RE SAYING I SHOULD THROW YOU A WELCOME PARTY.
C'MERE.
TATA -RA,
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A FAMOUS HERO.
YOU DON'T LOOK IT.
YOU'RE GOING SENILE.
OLD WOMAN, STOP MUMBLING TO YOURSELF.
KONK
LOUAYA
VODKA
N VODKA

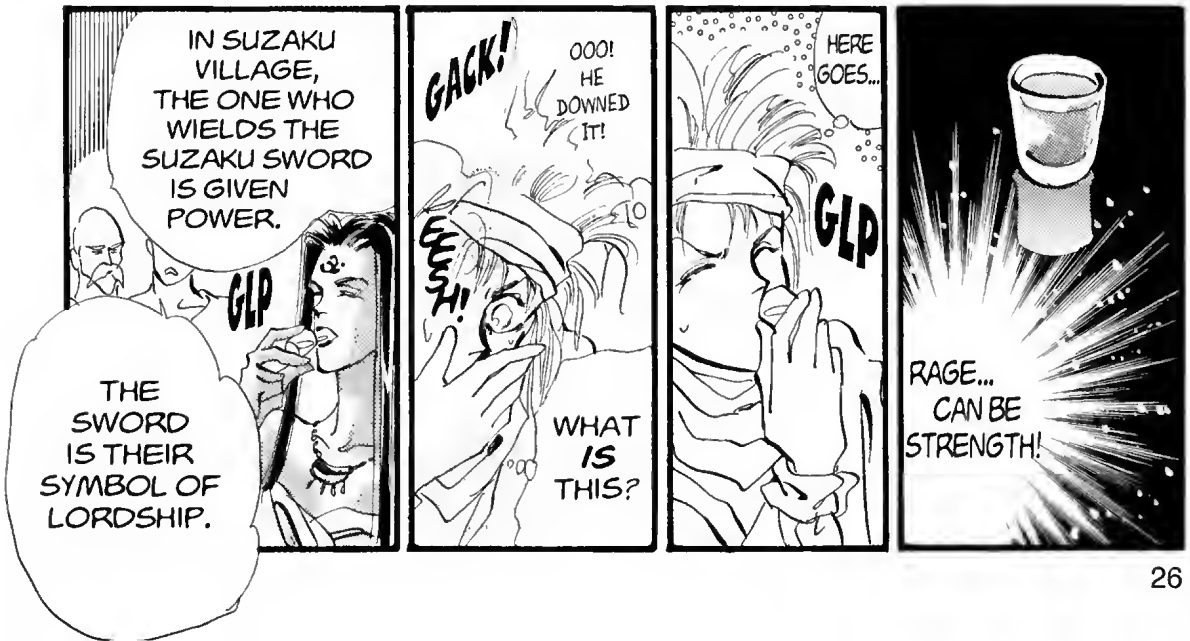
YEAH!
...WHAT THE FAMOUS "LORD TATARA" IS MADE OF.
EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE...
ATTA WAY!
WOO-HOO!
OOO!
...I MIGHT CONSIDER CHANGING MY MIND ABOUT SELLING YOU.
IF YOU WIN...
LET'S HAVE A DRINKING CONTEST.
HEH HEH
MEN HAVE TO BE TOUGH.
GLP
...BECAUSE I'M SMALL AND WEAK.
IF ONLY I WERE THE REAL TATARA!
THEY'RE MAKING FUN OF ME...
WOO HOO!
GOOD LUCK, TATARA!
HAHAHA!
NO ONE CAN OUT-DRINK THE CHIEF!
COME ON!
TK
WE ONLY BELIEVE...
...IN STRENGTH.


ASK ALL THE PARENTS WHO ARE SO HAPPY TO SELL THEIR KIDS TO US.
IT'S WHAT POVERTY DOES.
AND WHAT...
DOES YOUR CON-SCIENCE SAY ABOUT SELLING CHILDREN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? MY BOOZE ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU?
I GUESS I'M SELLING YOU AFTER ALL!

BLUE... FLAMES.

IN HER EYES...
THERE ARE FLAMES...
...IN HER SOUL.
WE HAVE TO TRADE ILLEGALLY.
YEAH! YEAH!
WE'RE POOR, TOO. ONLY THE SHOJO CLAN IS ALLOWED TO TRADE WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.
BUT WE DON'T WANT TO SUCK UP TO KING UKON.

...THERE IS RAGE.

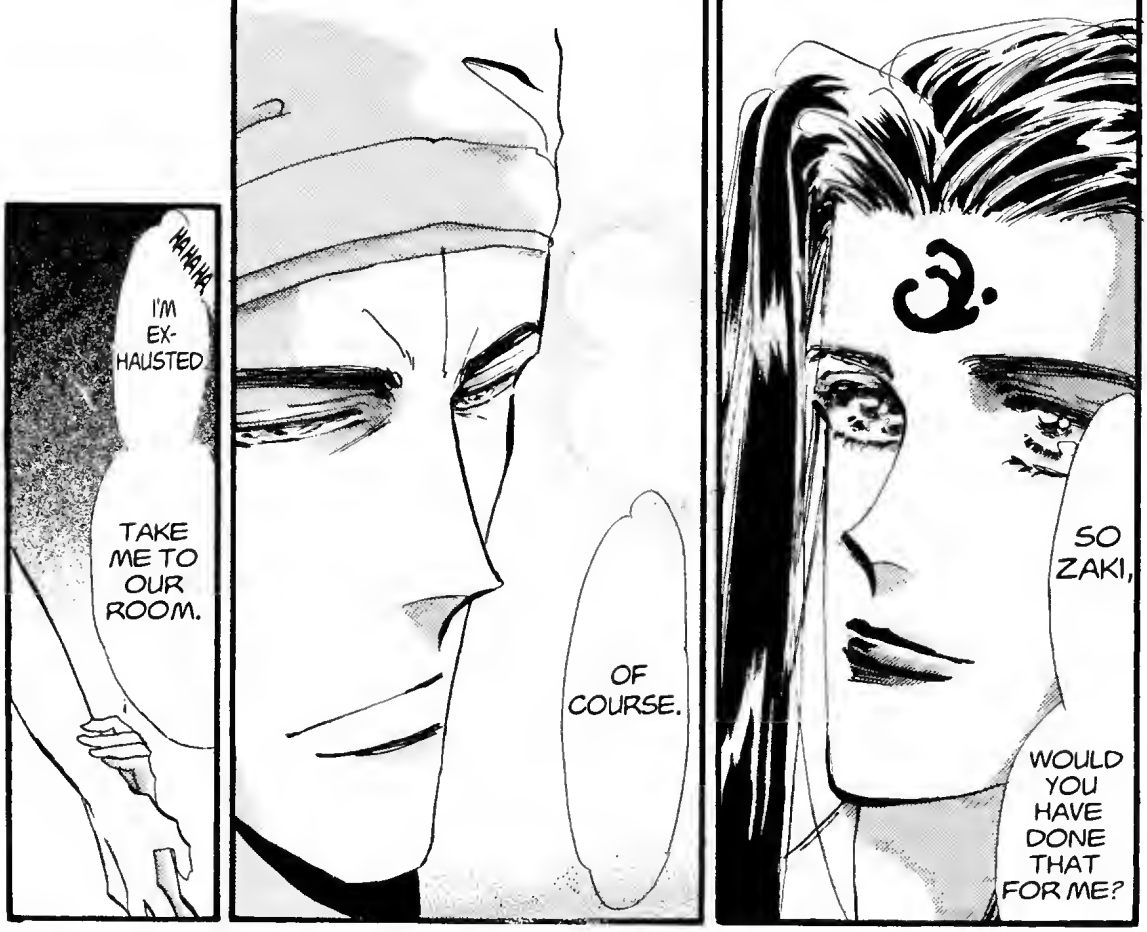

IN SUZAKU VILLAGE, THE ONE WHO WIELDS THE SUZAKU SWORD IS GIVEN POWER.
GLP
THE SWORD IS THEIR SYMBOL OF LORDSHIP.
GACK!
OOO! HE DOWNED IT!
EEEH!
WHAT IS THIS?
HERE GOES...
GLP
RAGE... CAN BE STRENGTH!

B-BUMP B-BUMP
HUH...? WHAT'S HAP-PENING...
MY... HEAD IS SPINNING
B-BUMP B-BUMP
SANK?
B-BUMP
BUT THERE'S A RUMOR THAT THE SWORD'S A FAKE.
THAT THE REAL ONE SANK WITH SAKURA-JIMA.
DRINK, DRINK, DRINK!
HA HA HA!
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK SICK.
WILL YOU LET ME TAKE THAT CHALLENGE FOR HIM?
HA HA HA!
DAMN IT...
I HAVE TO... DO THIS...
HA HA HA!
WILL YOU ACCEPT YOUR DEFEAT?

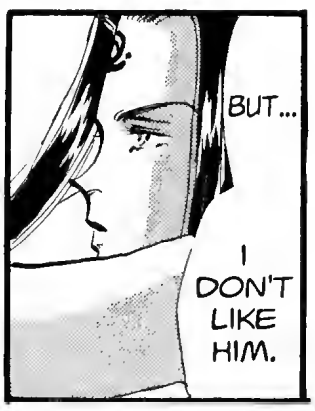
YOU... THE NEW ONE WHO JOINED US A WHILE AGO. YOU KNOW HIM?
KAKU!?
HE'S LIKE A SON TO ME.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NOW, NOW. I THOUGHT I'D RUN INTO YOU IF I STAYED.
UNNG
KAKU!
KAKU!
RRRMM
HFF
HFF
I MISSED YOU.
I MISSED YOU SO MUCH!
NOT OVER YET, EH?
HE'S MAKIN' THE CHIEF WORK FOR IT.
SO LONG AS IT DOESN'T START A TSUNAMI...
SHKK
SHKK
AN EARTH-QUAKE.
THERE'VE BEEN A LOT LATELY.

ONE MORE SHOT!
TK
2
GULP
INCREDIBLE!
WOO-HOO!
ZAKI, POUR ME ANOTHER ONE!
CHA-CHA...
WE'RE OUT OF BOOZE.
GO STEAL SOME FROM SOME-WHERE!
WHAT!?
HMPH.
NOTHIN' WE CAN DO IF WE'RE OUT, I S'POSE...
I'LL CALL IT A DRAW.
CHA-CHA,
THAT'S ENOUGH...
KAKU?
GONG
KAKU!
...EVEN FOR YOU.

FAN FAN
HE'S AMAZING... HE'S BOTTOM-LESS!
NO.
HE CAN'T TAKE LIQUOR.
HE CAN'T DRINK A SINGLE DROP.
HE GETS REALLY, REALLY SICK.
AND NAGI ISN'T HERE TO CURE HIM.
HERE'S SOME WATER.
I'M SORRY, KAKU. I'M SO SORRY.
!
THAT MAN HAS ALCOHOL INTOLERANCE.
HE CAN'T DRINK.
ZAKI,
WE STILL HAVE ALL THIS BOOZE.
WHY'D YOU STOP US?
BE-CAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE ONE OF YOU WAS GOING TO DIE.
.....
HUH.
TATARA'S GOT LOYAL FOLLOW-ERS.


SO ZAKI,
WOULD YOU HAVE DONE THAT FOR ME?
OF COURSE.
HAHAHA
I'M EX-HAUSTED.
TAKE ME TO OUR ROOM.

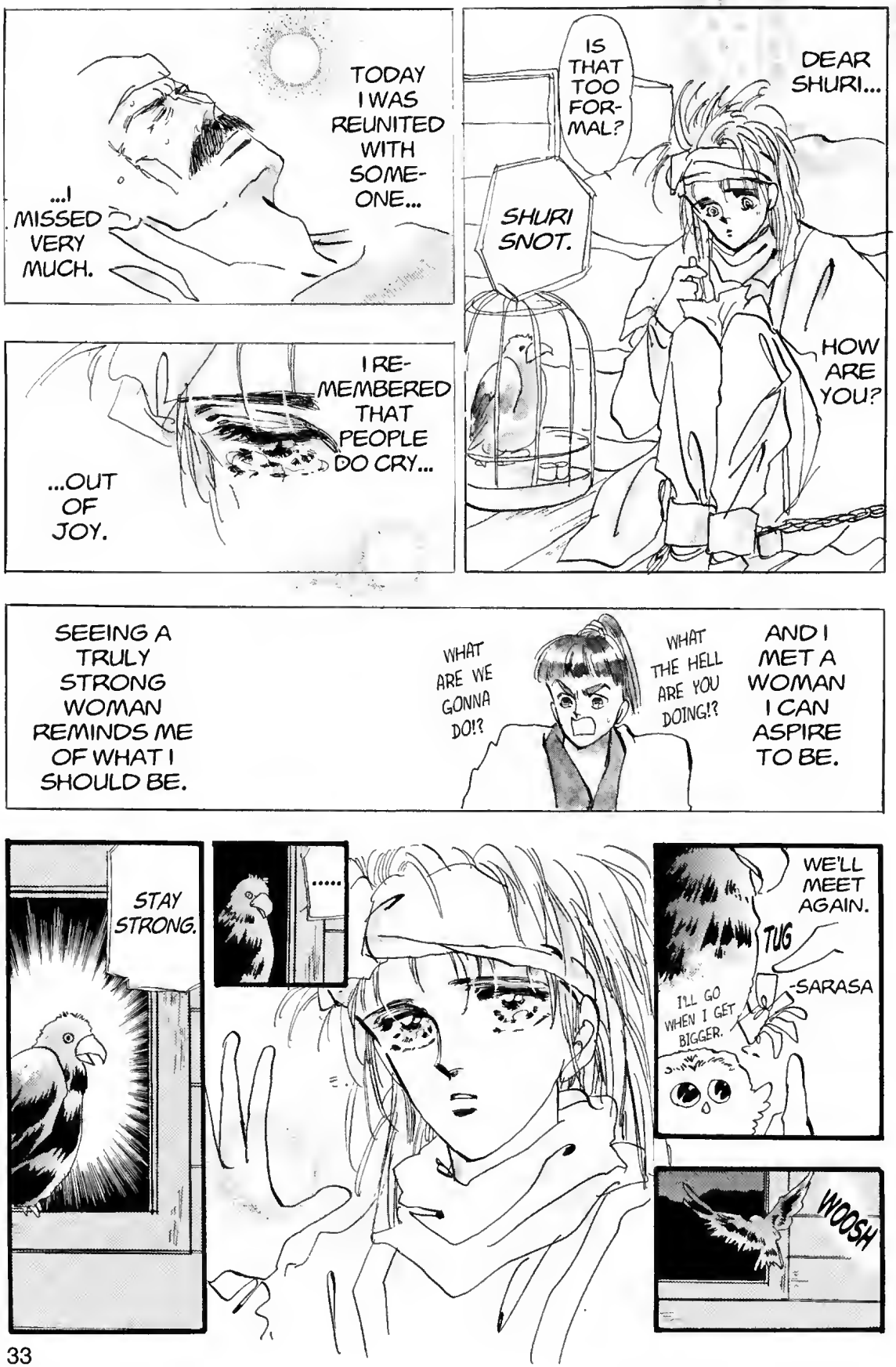
CHA-CHA,
YOU WANT TO BRING DOWN THE SHOJOS, TOO.
IF YOU WANT US TO JOIN
WE'LL DO IT.


BUT...
I DON'T LIKE HIM.

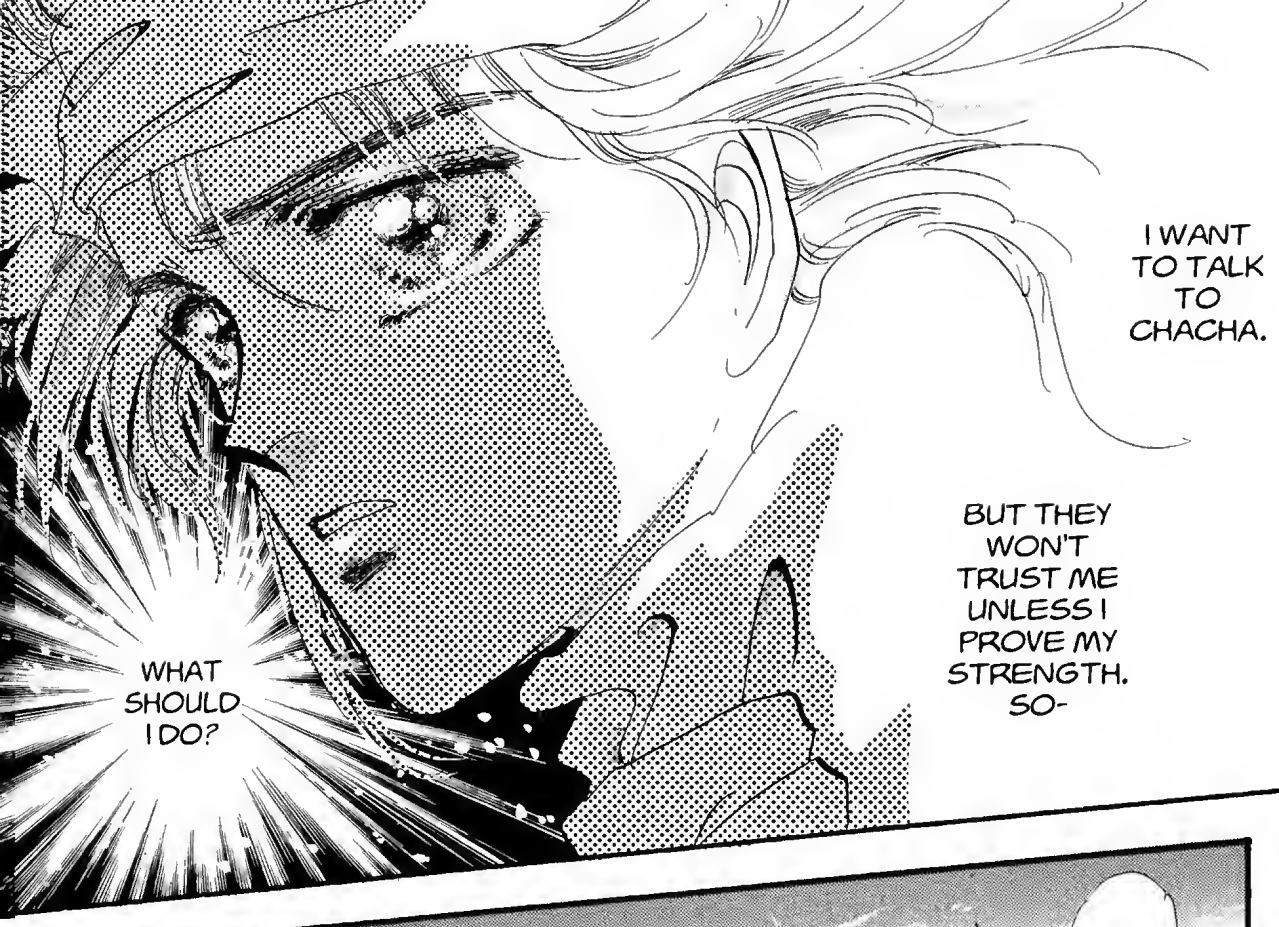
I KNOW HE'S STILL A KID,
BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN BLINK WHEN HE SAW MY BODY!
HE'S ASKING TO GET SOLD!
YOU'RE TER-RIBLE!

TATARA...
WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE.

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO, TATARA!?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
KAKU DIDN'T SUFFER THROUGH ALL THAT...
...JUST SO I COULD RUN AWAY.
I DON'T WANT TO RUN.
I DON'T WANT HER TO LAUGH AT ME.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!?
I DON'T WANT TO RUN.
YOU WANT TO BE LIKE THE GIRL WITH THE RED SHOES IN THE SONG?
WHAT!?
SOLD!?
SHURI SMART.
SHURI SMART.
SHURI GREAT.
SQUAWK SQUAWK SQUAWK
WA-!
...WILL IT REALLY REACH HIM?
IF I WRITE A LETTER...
SHURI SNOT. SHURI SNOT.
SHURI SNOT.
SHURI'S NOT SMART!
THAT STUCK-UP-
SHURI'S NOT!


TODAY I WAS REUNITED WITH SOME-ONE...
...I MISSED VERY MUCH.
I RE-MEMBERED THAT PEOPLE DO CRY...
...OUT OF JOY.
DEAR SHURI...
IS THAT TOO FOR-MAL?
SHURI SNOT.
HOW ARE YOU?
SEEING A TRULY STRONG WOMAN REMINDS ME OF WHAT I SHOULD BE.
WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO!?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!?
AND I MET A WOMAN I CAN ASPIRE TO BE.
STAY STRONG.
.....
WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
TUG
-SARASA
I'LL GO WHEN I GET BIGGER.
WOOSH

GIVE IT YOUR ALL.
STAY STRONG.
STAY STRONG.
DON'T GIVE UP.
FIGHT.
DON'T GIVE UP.
SHURI.
I WON'T GIVE UP.
FLAP FLAP
WERE THESE THINGS HE TOLD HIMSELF?


I WANT TO TALK TO CHACHA.
BUT THEY WON'T TRUST ME UNLESS I PROVE MY STRENGTH. SO-
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SAY WHAT?

I WANT YOU TO FIGHT ALONG-SIDE ME.
BUT IF I WIN...

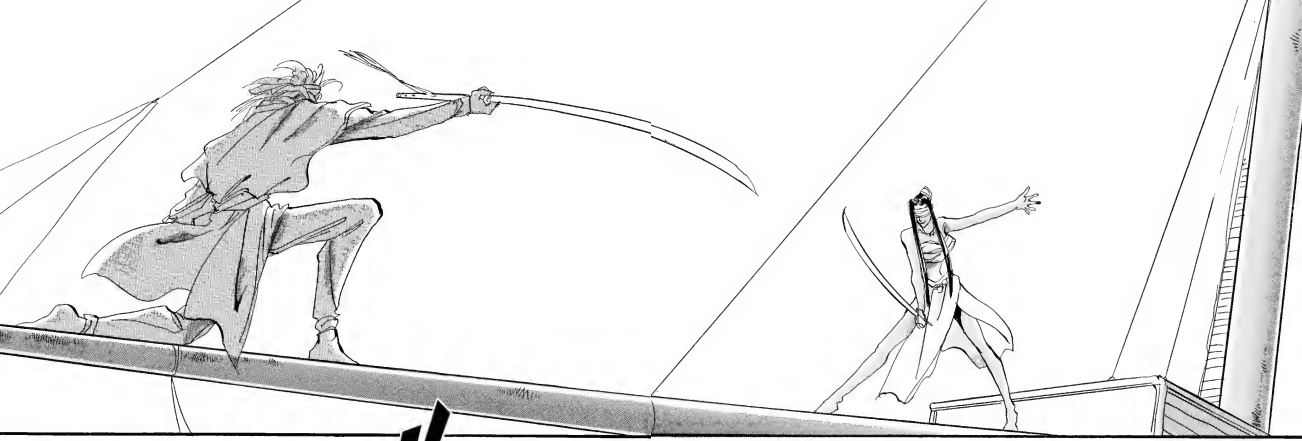
IF I LOSE, YOU CAN SELL ME IF YOU WANT.

I SAID...
...LET'S DO THE DEATH DANCE.

...YOU'LL FEED THE SHARKS.
IF YOU LOSE...

I...
...WANT YOU.
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE WORTH IT.
WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
WAKE UP!
THIS IS TERRIBLE!
TATA-RA-
HE'S GONNA BE SHARK BAIT!
BUT IF I'M GOING TO RISK EVERY-ONE'S FATES-
WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS A SPECIAL DANCE.
...FOR A KID.
YOU'RE A SMOOTH TALKER...
SHE'S NOT YOURS.
WILL YOU ALL ENTRUST YOUR LIVES TO MY SKILL?
WOOHOO!
YEAH!
WELL, YOU HEARD HIM!

TATARA!
QUIET.
SHE LOVES IT THE HARD WAY.
LOOK AT THAT!
A BLINDFOLD WON'T STOP THE CHIEF.
BLINDFOLDS? TATARA DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE.
VIP
LET'S GO!



I DON'T WANT TO GO TO MY GRAVE AS A PIRATE.
I WANT TO MAKE A NAME FOR MYSELF, FOR THE WORLD TO KNOW IT.
IF YOU'RE A MAN WHO CAN DEFEAT ME...
...I'LL GO TO HELL AND BACK WITH YOU.
HAH!
...EVEN WHEN THINGS SEEM IMPOSSIBLE...
...SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO DO IT.
VID
VANG

MY CHANCES ARE ONE IN A THOUSAND.
THIS IS INSANE!

ZSSH
...AND SHURI...
BUT MY BROTHER...

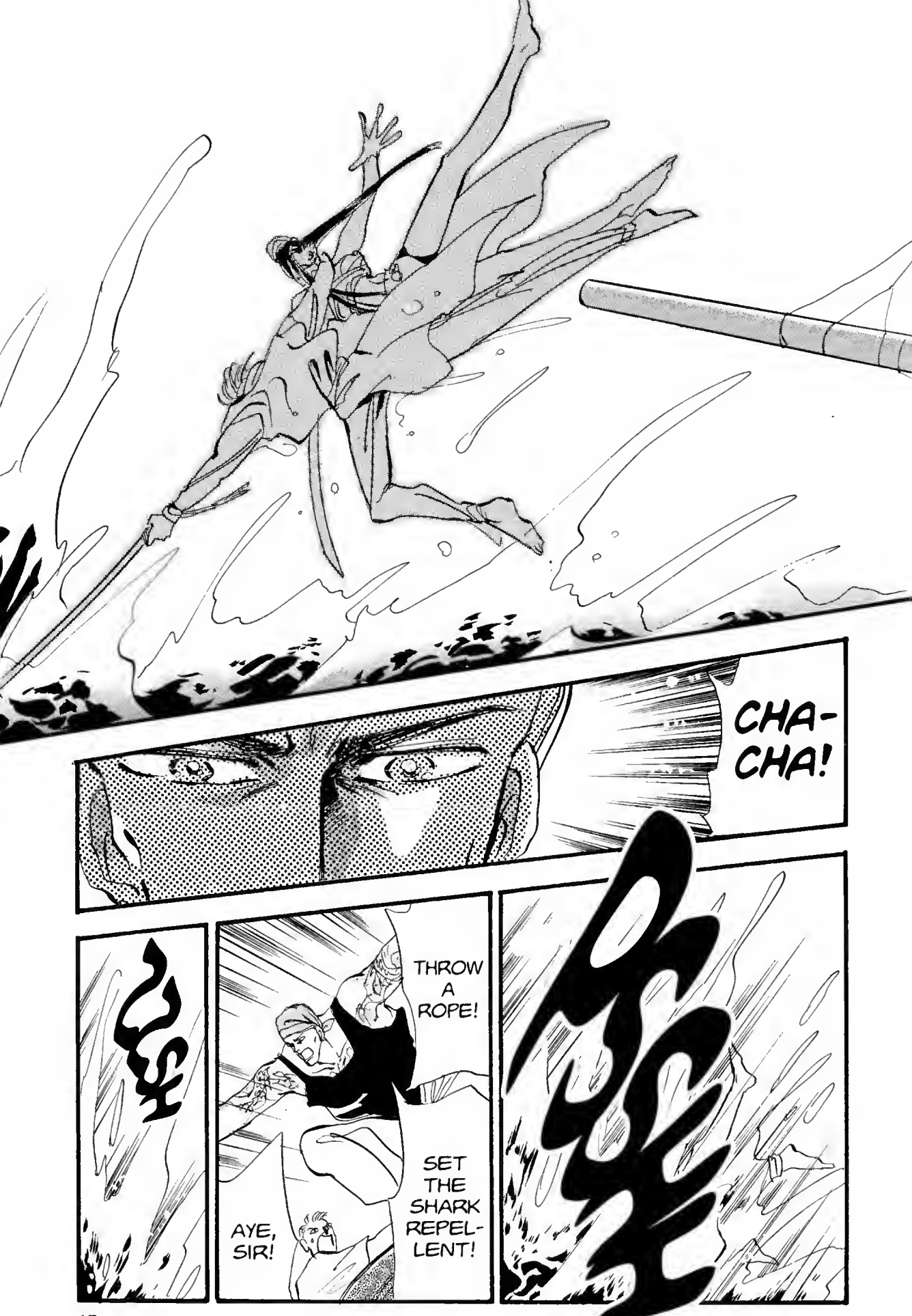
WOBBLE
UHHH!

...MAY BE A GIFT.
THIS BLINDFOLD...
ZSH
VIP
VIP
I CAN MAKE MYSELF BELIEVE...
...I'M ON SOLID GROUND.

I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
WOBBLE
HERE COME THE SHARKS.
THEY KNOW IT'S DINNER-TIME!
YAA! YAA!
THAT'S IT, CHIEF!
RRM
RRMMMM
WHOA!
WOBBLE
EARTHQUAKE!
IT'S A BIG ONE!
RRMMMM

TATARA!

BISH
BASH
HFF
HFF
OHHH!
HE FELL!
WHOO!
THE CHIEF WON!
SSS
HFF
HFF
TATARA!


CHA-CHA!
THROW A ROPE!
SET THE SHARK REPEL-LENT!
AYE, SIR!

GLBB
GLBBB
GLBB

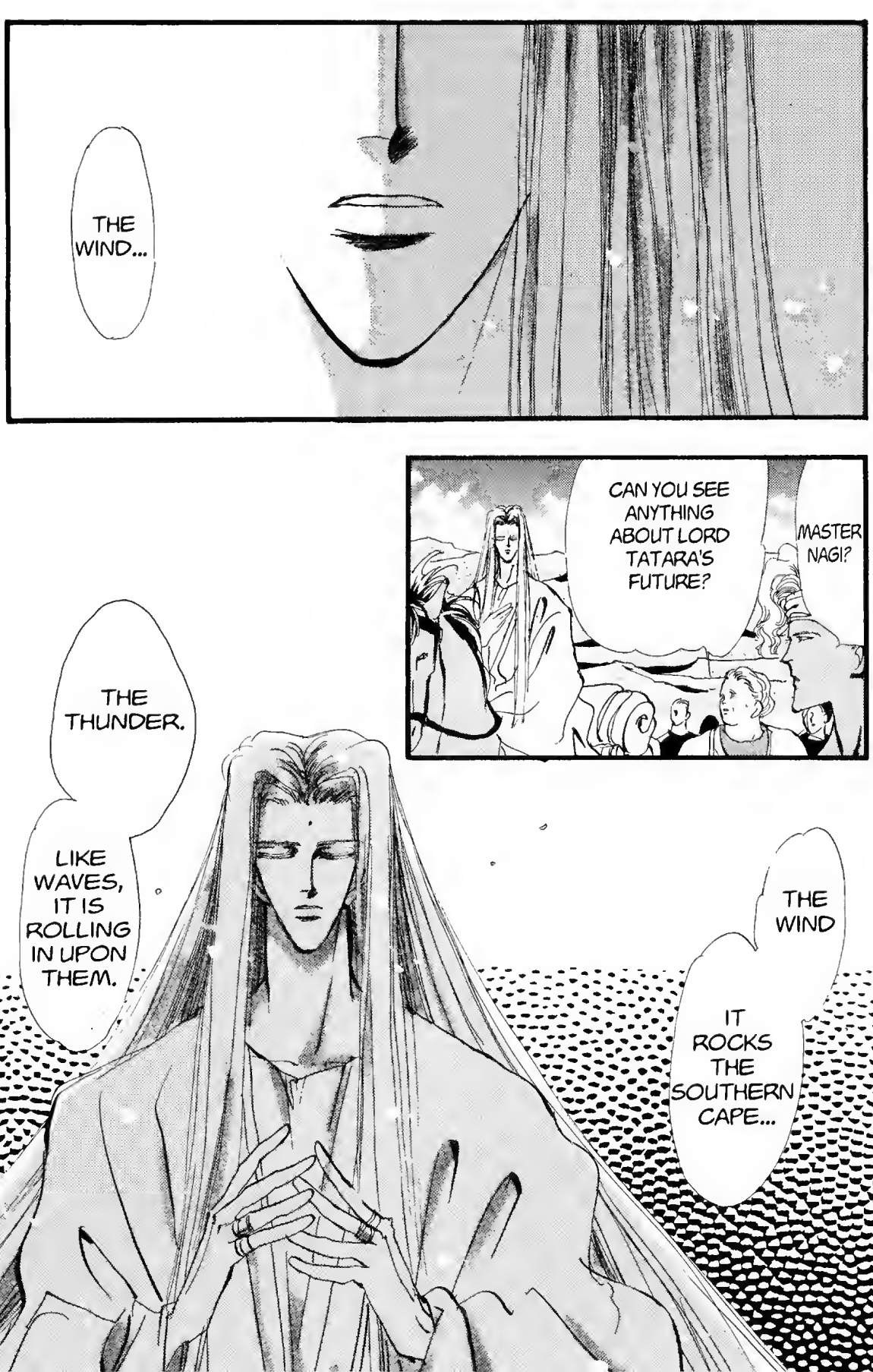
HH!
YEAH!
HA HA HA HA!
HEH. HEH.
I-
I CAN...
...STILL DO THIS!
HFF
HFF
HFF
KOF
HAK

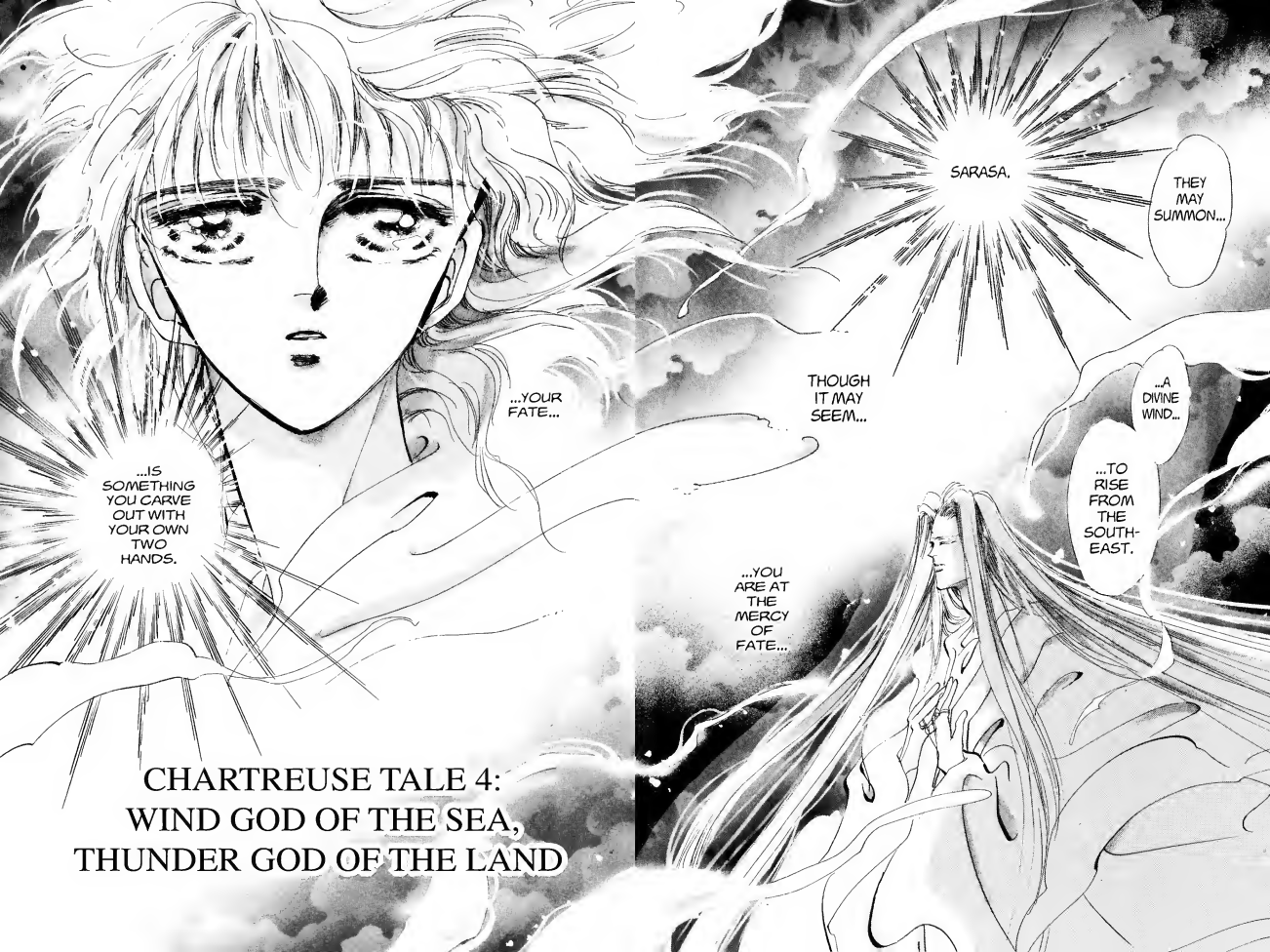
AHOY!
YOU ALL SAW IT-
I LOST!
FAIR AND SQUARE.
HUH? WHAT? I WON?
C'MON.
TAKE YOUR BOWS.
I...
I...
I WANT TO
DEFEAT THE SHOJO CLAN- WITH YOU.
AND THEN CONFRONT THE RED ARMY!
RAA!
LET'S DO IT!
YEAH!
YAY!
WE WON'T HAVE TO HIDE IN A SECRET PORT ANYMORE!
WE CAN SET SAIL WITH OUR HEADS HELD HIGH!
WE'VE ONLY BEEN APART.... ...FOR A FEW WEEKS...

I- I DIDN'T MEAN THAT!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED ME?
HA HA HA!
HO HO HO!
OR IS SHE TATARA?
IS THAT...
LITTLE SARA-SA?
WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
KRIK KRIK
CHIEF!
OUR WATER-FALL IS GONE! AND NOW-
WE'RE TOTALLY EXPOSED!
THE EARTH-QUAKE CHANGED THE FLOW OF WATER.
THWACK

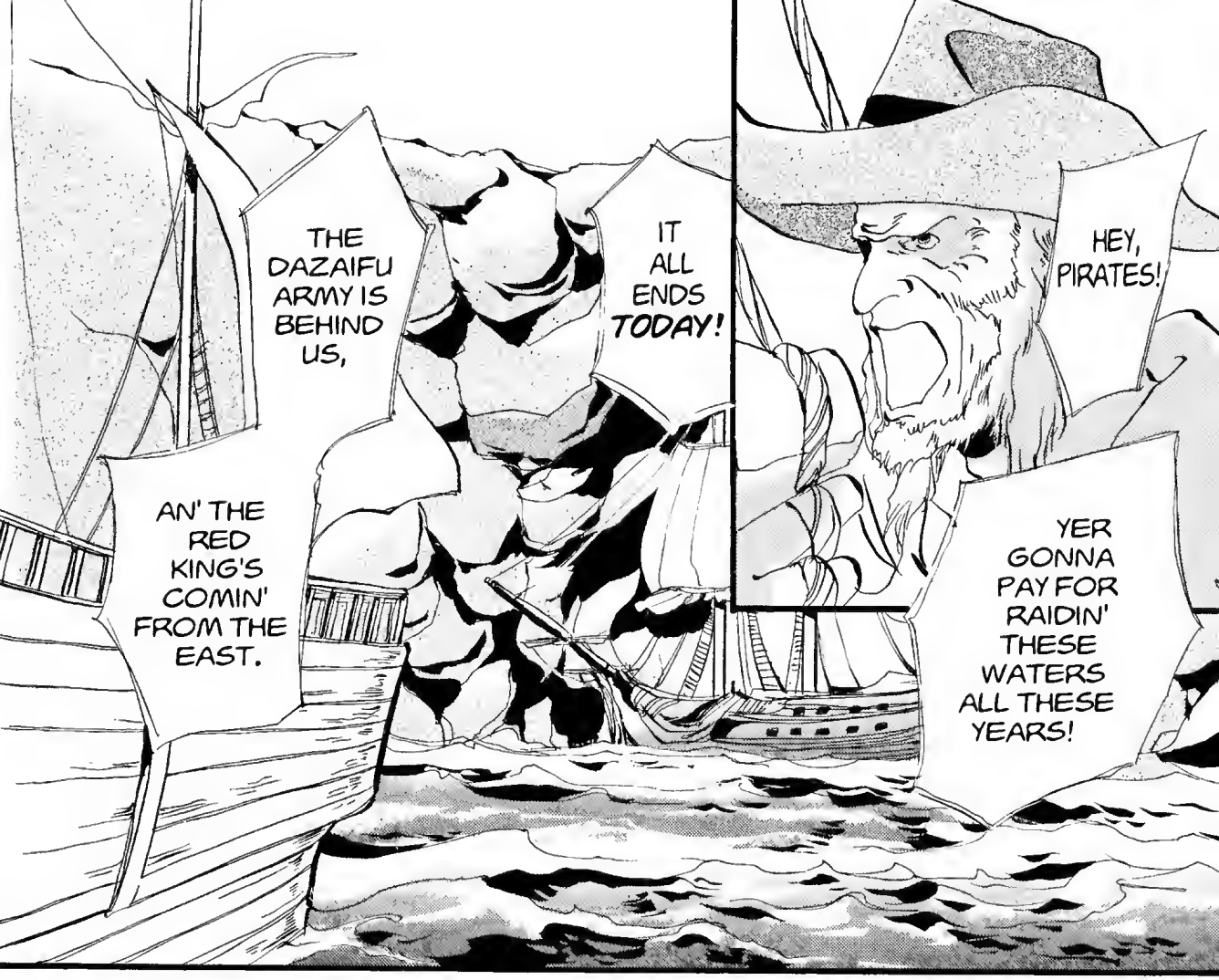
HEAR ME, PIRATES!
AT LAST, WE'VE FOUND YER HIDE-OUT.
AND WE KNOW YOU HAVE TATARA!

IT'S THE SHOJOS' SHIP. WE'VE BEEN FOUND!
GIVE THE REBEL TO US!


THE WIND...
CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING ABOUT LORD TATARA'S FUTURE?
MASTER NAGI?
THE THUNDER.
LIKE WAVES, IT IS ROLLING IN UPON THEM.
THE WIND
IT ROCKS THE SOUTHERN CAPE...



CHARTREUSE TALE 4: WIND GOD OF THE SEA, THUNDER GOD OF THE LAND



TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

LI'L SHIDO

Scorpio, blood type A.
He's so cute I have to call him "Li'l Shido."

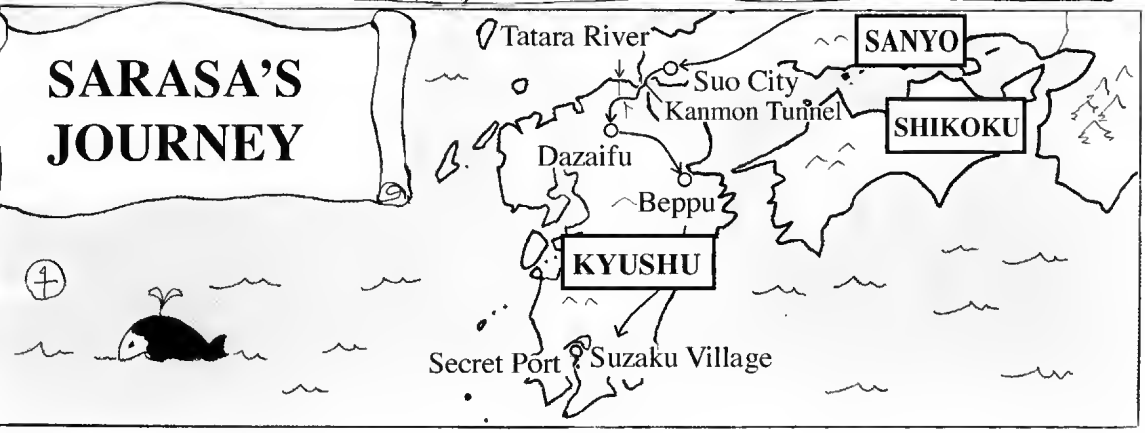
I like conscientious guys like him.

I chuckle when I think he might have tan lines when he takes off his headdress.

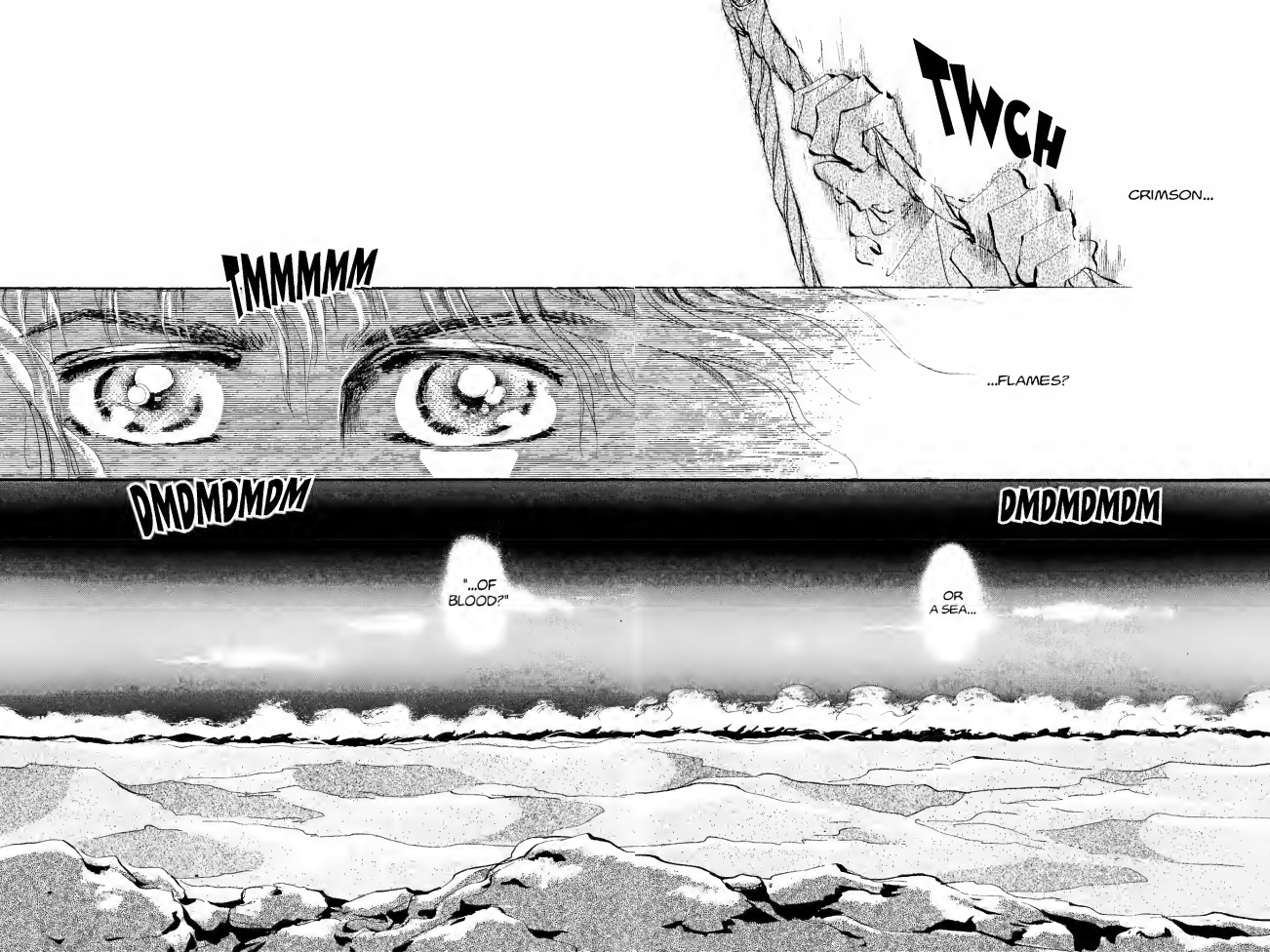
Princess Senju is probably a Virgo, blood type A.

TAMU.

SARASA'S JOURNEY



TMMMM
HA! THE SHOJOS ARE BROWN-NOSERS,
TMM
MILKING ALL THEY CAN FROM THE RED KING.
BUT... IF'N YOU GIVE US THE REBEL, TATARA,
WE'LL MAKE A DEAL FOR YA.
HA HA HA!
WE MIGHT LET YOU OFF EASY!
TMMMM MMM
MMM
DM
TMM
TMMM
KRK
THAT RUMBLING-!!
DM DM DM
WHAT-!?
CHACHA! TATARA!
THERE'S A CLOUD OF SAND IN THE DISTANCE!


TWCH
CRIMSON...
TMMMMM
...FLAMES?
DMDMDMDM
DMDMDMDM
"...OF BLOOD?"
OR A SEA...

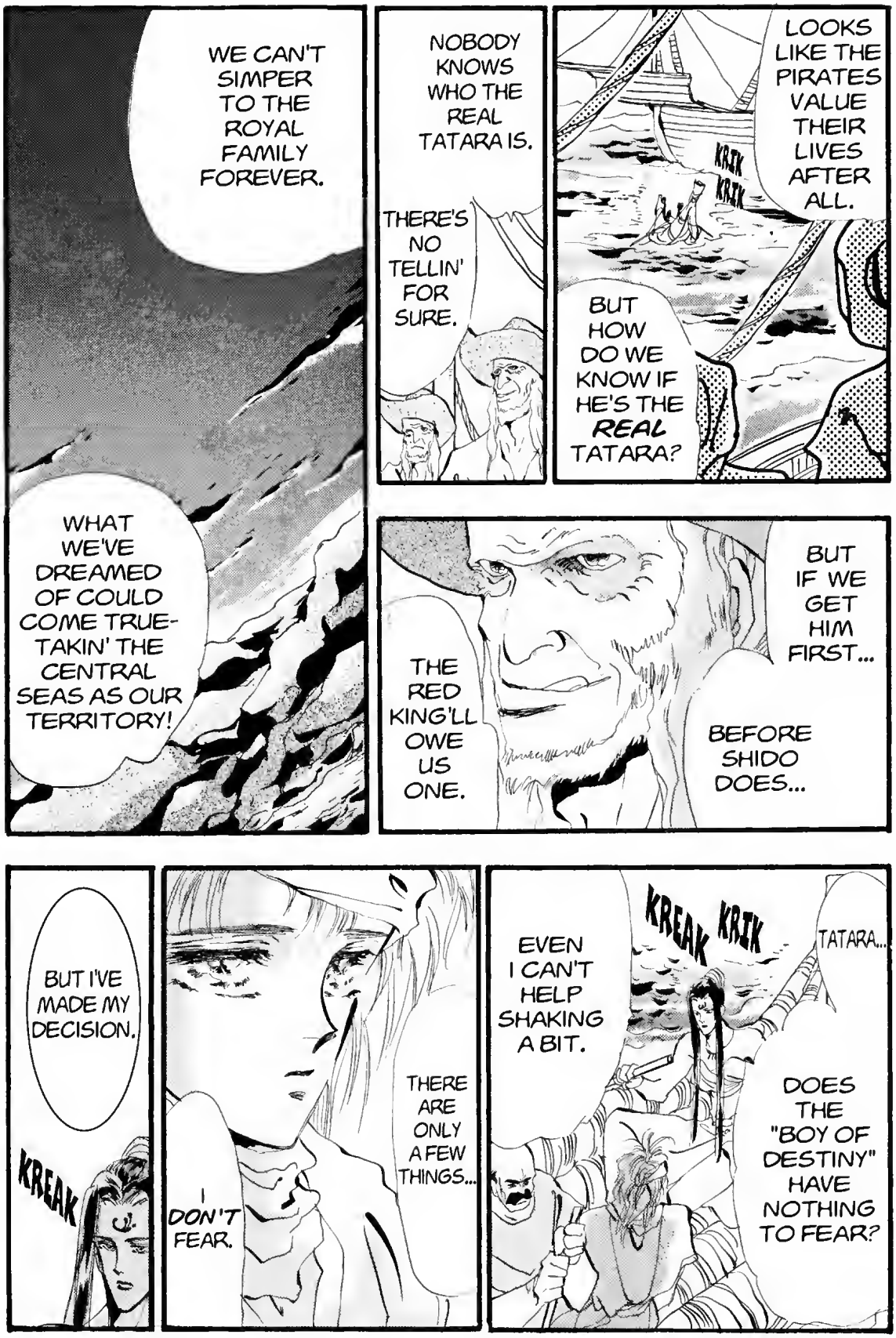
TMMMM
DMDMDMDM
MMM
DM
TMMM
A CHARIOT CORPS ARMORED LIKE MOVING FORTRESSES. NOT SWORDS, NOT ARROWS, NOT EVEN BULLETS WILL PENETRATE THEM.
RAIJIN!?
TMM
RAIJIN, THE "GOD OF THUNDER!"
THAT'S...
NO...
CHA-CHA...
THAT'S...
IT CAN'T BE.

THE LEGENDARY ARMY LED BY THE DAZAIFU CHIEF- SHIDO.
...WHEN THE RED KING WAS BRINGING WESTERN JAPAN UNDER CONTROL.
HE GATHERED THE GREATEST WARRIORS...
ALL WHO OPPOSED IT WERE STRUCK DOWN...
...TRAM-PLED.
IT STAINED THE EARTH RED.
SHIDO...
HE HAD SUCH A KIND FACE.
BUT HE'S THE RED KING'S RIGHT HAND MAN!
...HE SENDS THOU-SANDS TO HEAVEN.
DAMN.
IF RAIJIN IS HERE, THAT MEANS...
ZFF
FTT

THP
THP
THP
WE'RE PIRATES!
WE'LL DIE BEFORE WE ABANDON SHIP!
BESIDES... WE COULD NEVER GET PAST THE RAIJIN.
THEN WHAT CAN WE DO!?
NO ONE...
NO ONE IS SAYING...
RAIJIN WILL HAVE US SURROUNDED WITHIN 30 MINUTES!
...THIS IS TATARA'S FAULT.
RAIJIN (WITH SHIDO) CLOSING IN.
PIRATE SHIP (WITH TATARA).
SHOJO SHIP.
ABANDON SHIP!?
WE SHOULD ABANDON SHIP AND ESCAPE ON LAND...
HEY, PIRATES!
HA HA HA!
I SUGGEST YOU HAND OVER TATARA!
YAA!
PUT THE FIRES OUT!
YAA!
CURSE THOSE SHOJOS!
CHIEF! WE CAN'T GET OUT TO SEA WITH THEM BLOCKING US!

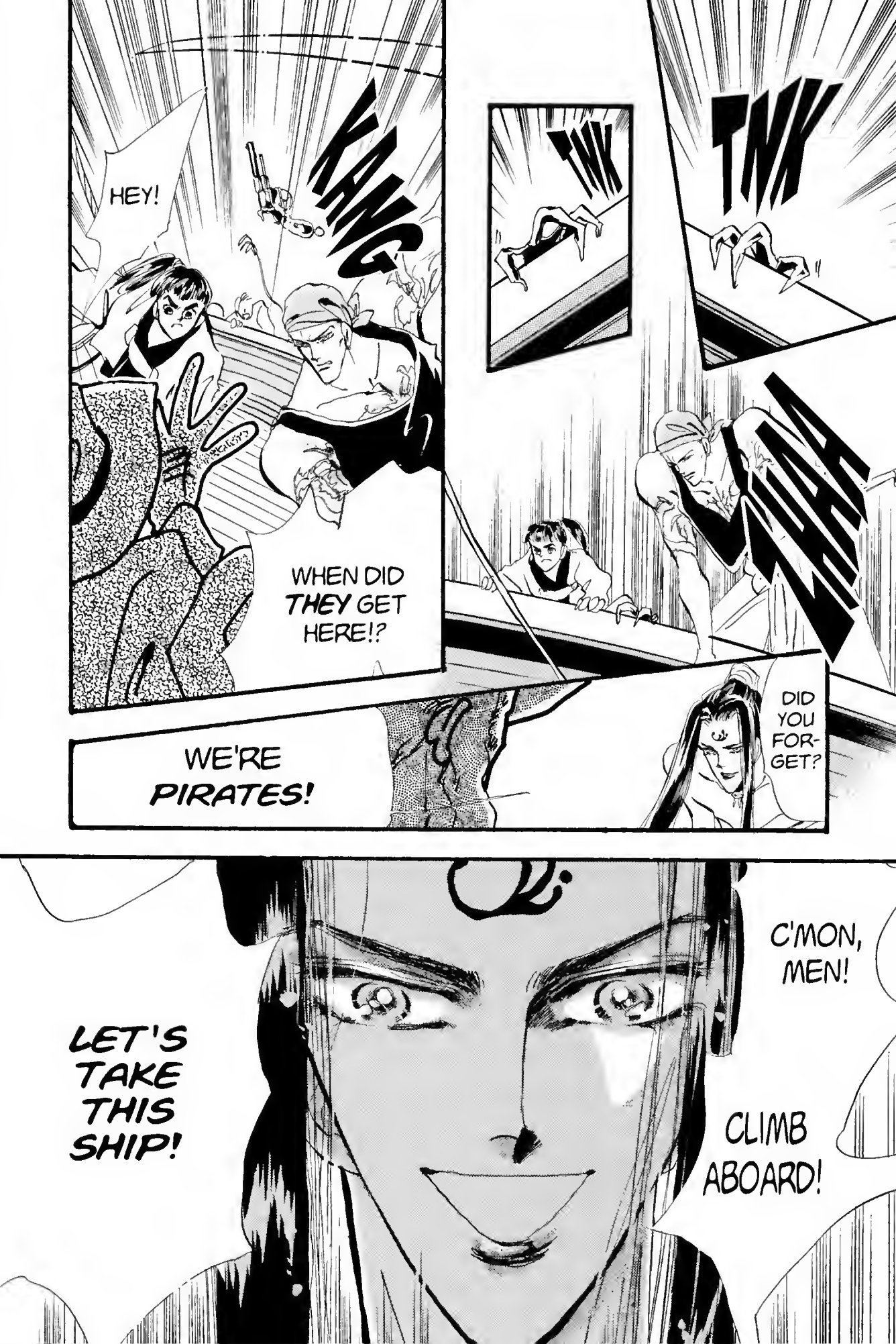
NO ONE'S SUGGESTING...
...THEY SHOULD TURN OVER TATARA.
SHOJO CLAN!
LISTEN!
!
WE'RE BRINGING TATARA OVER!
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
TATARA!
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING!?
YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW!
WE DON'T SELL OUR OWN!
YEAH!

GO TO SAKU-RAJIMA.
FRIENDS.
THEY WILL BE YOUR FRIENDS.
WITH FRIENDS I CAN SURVIVE ANY-THING!
THE SHO-JOS...
...ARE IN FRONT OF US. RAIJIN IS CLOSE BEHIND.
I THINK OUR ONLY CHOICE IS TO GO FORWARD.
I GET IT.
ZAKI! TAKE CARE OF THE REST.
AYE, AYE.
LET'S GO, TATARA.
YOU GUYS...
...ARE PIRATES, AREN'T YOU?


WE CAN'T SIMPER TO THE ROYAL FAMILY FOREVER.
WHAT WE'VE DREAMED OF COULD COME TRUE- TAKIN' THE CENTRAL SEAS AS OUR TERRITORY!
NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE REAL TATARA IS.
THERE'S NO TELLIN' FOR SURE.
KRIK KRIK
LOOKS LIKE THE PIRATES VALUE THEIR LIVES AFTER ALL.
BUT HOW DO WE KNOW IF HE'S THE REAL TATARA?
THE RED KING'LL OWE US ONE.
BUT IF WE GET HIM FIRST...
BEFORE SHIDO DOES...
BUT I'VE MADE MY DECISION.
KREAK
I DON'T FEAR.
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW THINGS...
EVEN I CAN'T HELP SHAKING A BIT.
KREAK KRIK
TATARA...
DOES THE "BOY OF DESTINY" HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR?

BUT I'VE MADE MY DECISION.
I KNOW I'M JUST A SCARED LITTLE GIRL.
I KNOW I'M NOT MY BROTHER, TATARA.
I'VE DECIDED FOR MYSELF.
KRAK. KRAK
PLEASED T'MAKE YOUR ACQUAIN-TANCE, TATARA.
WELCOME TO THE THIRD SHIP O' SUZAKU.

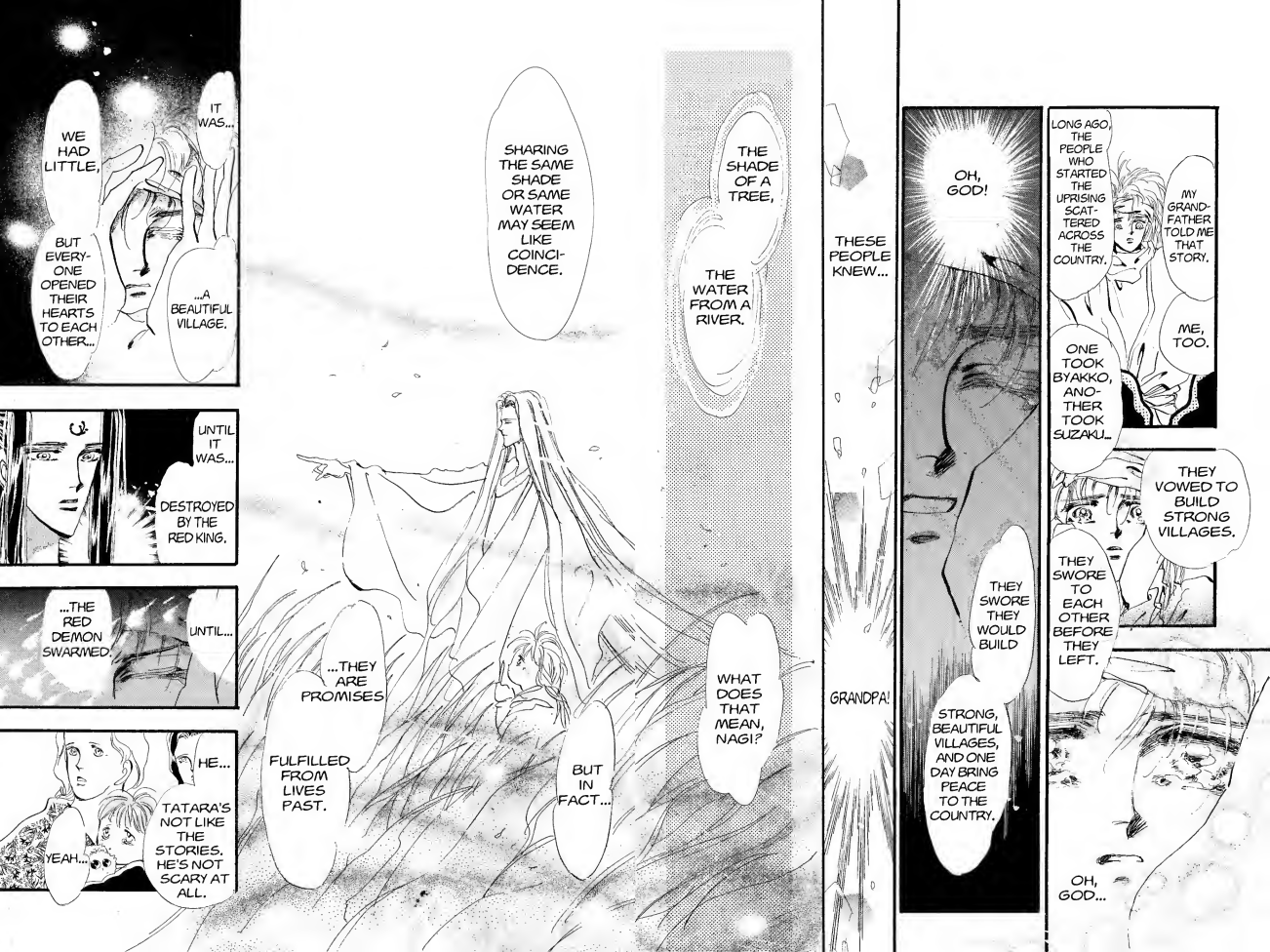
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO BETRAYED RASHO LONG AGO.
THEY CLAIMED THE SUZAKU SWORD AND SUZAKU VILLAGE.
THEY'RE THE YOUNGER TWO OF THE FOUR BROTHERS WHO LEAD THE CLAN.
THESE MEN...
THANKS FOR MAKIN' IT EASY FOR US.
...WHO WAG THEIR TAILS FOR THE RED KING.
THESE ARE MEN...
I'VE BEEN WANTIN' TO TRY IT OUT.
LINE UP.
SEE THIS?
I JUST BOUGHT IT FROM A FOREIGN MER-CHANT.
CLK
DEAD OR ALIVE
TATARA'LL FETCH A HIGH PRICE FROM THE RED KING!

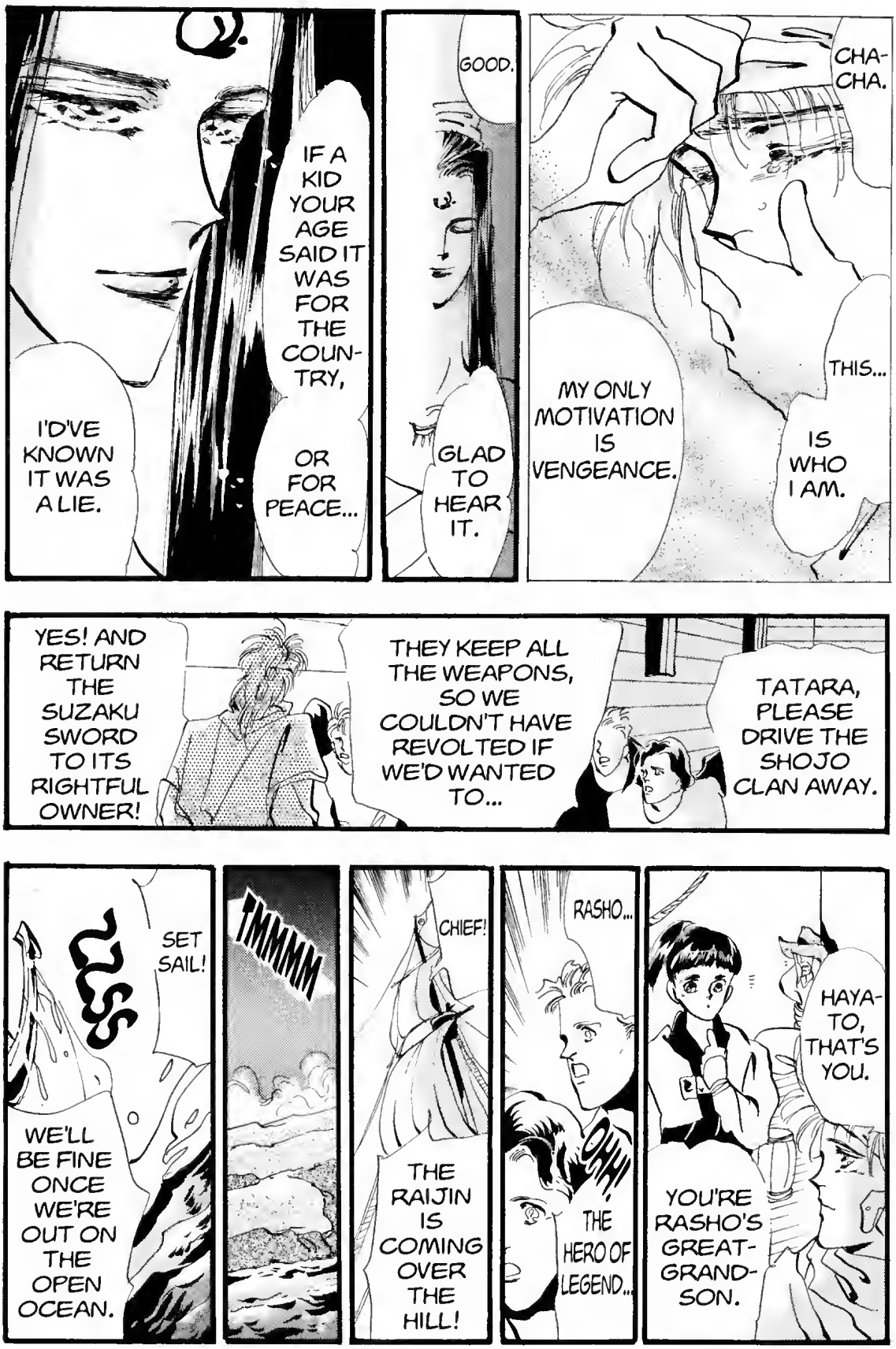

HEY!
KANG
TNK
TNK
WHEN DID THEY GET HERE!?
WE'RE PIRATES!
DID YOU FOR-GET?
LET'S TAKE THIS SHIP!
C'MON, MEN!
CLIMB ABOARD!

KANG
YA AA!
KANG
DO IT QUICK!
THE RAIJIN IS CLOSING IN!
BAM!
ARE YOU VILLAGERS OF SUZAKU?
Y-YES.
BUT THEY TREAT US LIKE HOSTAGES!
PLEASE, HELP US.
GASP!
BWAA!
WAA!
D-DON'T KILL US!
WHY ARE THERE WOMEN AND KIDS...
...ON THE SHIP?

MEANWHILE, THE VILLAGERS ARE SO POOR WE STRUGGLE TO EAT.
THEY PLAY MIDDLE-MEN IN TRADE BETWEEN KING UKON AND OTHER COUN-TRIES.
THEY LINE THEIR POCKETS AND PAY NO TAXES.
WAAAA!
MY SON...
HE AND MY HUSBAND WERE FORCED TO WORK ON DECK.
WHAT!?
WE MUST DO AS THEY SAY.
BUT SINCE THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE SUZAKU SWORD IS OUR LEADER BY LAW...
...OF SUZAKU VILLAGE.
THE SHOJO ARE THE LORDS...
STAY YOUR SWORDS!
ONLY THE SHOJOS ARE OUR ENEMIES!
CHA-CHA!

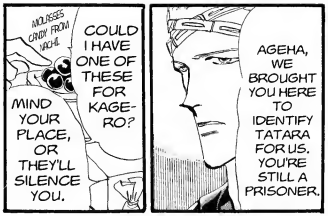
PEEP PEEP
DON'T WORRY.
TATARA WON'T DO ANY-THING BAD.
PF
BYAA! WAAA! WAA!
MAMORU, MAMORU, DON'T CRY.
PEEP.
I'VE HEARD OF THE BYAKKO VILLAGE.
YES.
...I'VE COME TO FEEL AS IF I'M VISITING LONG-LOST RELATIVES.
ON THE WAY...
I'VE MADE A LONG JOURNEY...
...THROUGH THE DESERT.
MY GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME TO SEEK OUT THE SUZAKU PEOPLE.
I COME FROM THE BYAKKO VILLAGE IN SANYO.


IT WAS...
WE HAD LITTLE,
BUT EVERY-ONE OPENED THEIR HEARTS TO EACH OTHER...
...A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE.
UNTIL IT WAS...
DESTROYED BY THE RED KING.
...THE RED DEMON SWARMED.
UNTIL...
HE...
TATARA'S NOT LIKE THE STORIES. HE'S NOT SCARY AT ALL.
YEAH...
SHARING THE SAME SHADE OR SAME WATER MAY SEEM LIKE COINCI-DENCE.
THE SHADE OF A TREE,
THE WATER FROM A RIVER.
...THEY ARE PROMISES
FULFILLED FROM LIVES PAST.
BUT IN FACT...
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, NAGI?
THESE PEOPLE KNEW...
GRANDPA!
OH, GOD!
LONG AGO, THE PEOPLE WHO STARTED THE UPRISING SCAT-TERED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
MY GRAND-FATHER TOLD ME THAT STORY.
ME, TOO.
ONE TOOK BYAKKO, ANO-THER TOOK SUZAKU..
THEY VOWED TO BUILD STRONG VILLAGES.
THEY SWORE TO EACH OTHER BEFORE THEY LEFT.
THEY SWORE THEY WOULD BUILD
STRONG, BEAUTIFUL VILLAGES, AND ONE DAY BRING PEACE TO THE COUNTRY.
OH, GOD...


IF A KID YOUR AGE SAID IT WAS FOR THE COUNTRY,
OR FOR PEACE...
I'D'VE KNOWN IT WAS A LIE.
GOOD.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.
CHA-CHA.
MY ONLY MOTIVATION IS VENGEANCE.
THIS...
IS WHO I AM.
YES! AND RETURN THE SUZAKU SWORD TO ITS RIGHTFUL OWNER!
THEY KEEP ALL THE WEAPONS, SO WE COULDN'T HAVE REVOLTED IF WE'D WANTED TO...
TATARA, PLEASE DRIVE THE SHOJO CLAN AWAY.
SET SAIL!
ZZSS
WE'LL BE FINE ONCE WE'RE OUT ON THE OPEN OCEAN.
MMMM
CHIEF!
THE RAIJIN IS COMING OVER THE HILL!
RASHO...
OH!
THE HERO OF LEGEND...
HAYA-TO, THAT'S YOU.
YOU'RE RASHO'S GREAT-GRAND-SON.

KREAK...
BUT?
BUT...
KREAK
KRIK
KRK
KRK
OH...
...NO...

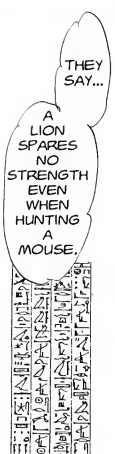
ZZSss
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!
THE RED NAVY- FUJIN, THE "GOD OF WIND!"


MOLASSES DRIPS FROM MOUTH
COULD I HAVE ONE OF THESE FOR KAGE-RO?
MIND YOUR PLACE, OR THEY'LL SILENCE YOU.

AGEHA, WE BROUGHT YOU HERE TO IDENTIFY TATARA FOR US. YOU'RE STILL A PRISONER.

BUT THEY ALSO SAY A CORNERED MOUSE WILL ATTACK A CAT.
BE CAREFUL, SHIDO.

KRNCH
IF YOU WANT TO KILL ME...
WHY DON'T YOU?


THEY SAY...
A LION SPARES NO STRENGTH EVEN WHEN HUNTING A MOUSE.

DMDMDM
RAI-JIN ON LAND...
AND FUJIN ON THE SEA!

ALL THIS FOR TATA-RA...
TMMM
DMDMDM

RAIJIN AND FUJIN ALWAYS WORK AS A TEAM.
WE CAN'T GO ANY-WHERE...

I COUNT YOU...
...AS ONE OF MY GOOD FRIENDS.
FRIEND!?
HA!
HA HA HA!
KLANK
...AGEHA.
PTU
DO YOU KNOW WHY TATARA IS SO OBSESSED WITH THE SUZAKU SWORD?
NEITHER THE BYAKKO OR SUZAKU SWORDS HAVE MAGICAL POWERS.
THEY MAY BE GOOD BLADES, BUT THEY'RE JUST THAT- BLADES.
THEY WON'T MAKE HIM ANY MORE POWERFUL.
A PRAG- MATIST LIKE YOU WOULD NEVER UNDERS- TAND.
THIS IS ROMANCE.
THAT'S ALL.

PTU
THE SWORDS OF BYAKKO, SUZAKU, SEIRYU, AND GENBU...
...WERE CREATED BY A SWORD SMITH HIRED BY THE ROYAL FAMILY.
YOU'RE WELL IN-FORMED.
HE STARTED AN UPRISING WITH FOUR HEROES...
THE GROUP OF FIVE GREW TO TEN, THEN TO 100... 1000...
THEIR WILL TO FIGHT BURNED EVEN AFTER THEIR DEFEAT.
THE SWORDS...
...GLITTER WITH THEIR WILL.
WILL IS PASSED DOWN...
...LIKE BLOOD.
IT WILL BRING PEOPLE TOGETH-ER...
...AND BIND THEM.
THE DAY TATARA BRINGS ALL FOUR SWORDS TOGETHER...
...HE WILL BECOME A POWERFUL LEADER, INDEED.

FUJIN AND RAIJIN ARE FIRING ON THEM FROM BOTH SIDES!
FINE.
FINISH THEM OFF, ALONG WITH THE SHOJOS.
LORD SHIDO!
TATARA AND THE PIRATES HAVE TAKEN OVER THE SHOJO SHIP!
ALL OF THEM.
KILL THEM.
WOOSH
THERE ARE WOMEN AND CHILD-REN ON BOARD.
KAGERO'S TAKING HIS NIGHTLY STROLL.
WSH
WSH
DON'T WORRY. YOU COULD SEE THERE WAS NO MESSAGE.
KILL THEM ALL.
THEY WILL SPAWN MORE ILL WILL.

I WILL BRING BACK TATARA'S HEAD!
SHURI...
SENJU...
I PROMISE.

I GOT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING...
AN' YOU'RE RASHO'S GREAT-GRAND-SON.
YOU ARE A SHOJO..
DAMMIT! MY BROTHER DROWNED!
WAGH!
SWIM!
LOOK OUT FOR SHARKS!
AAA!
YEE!

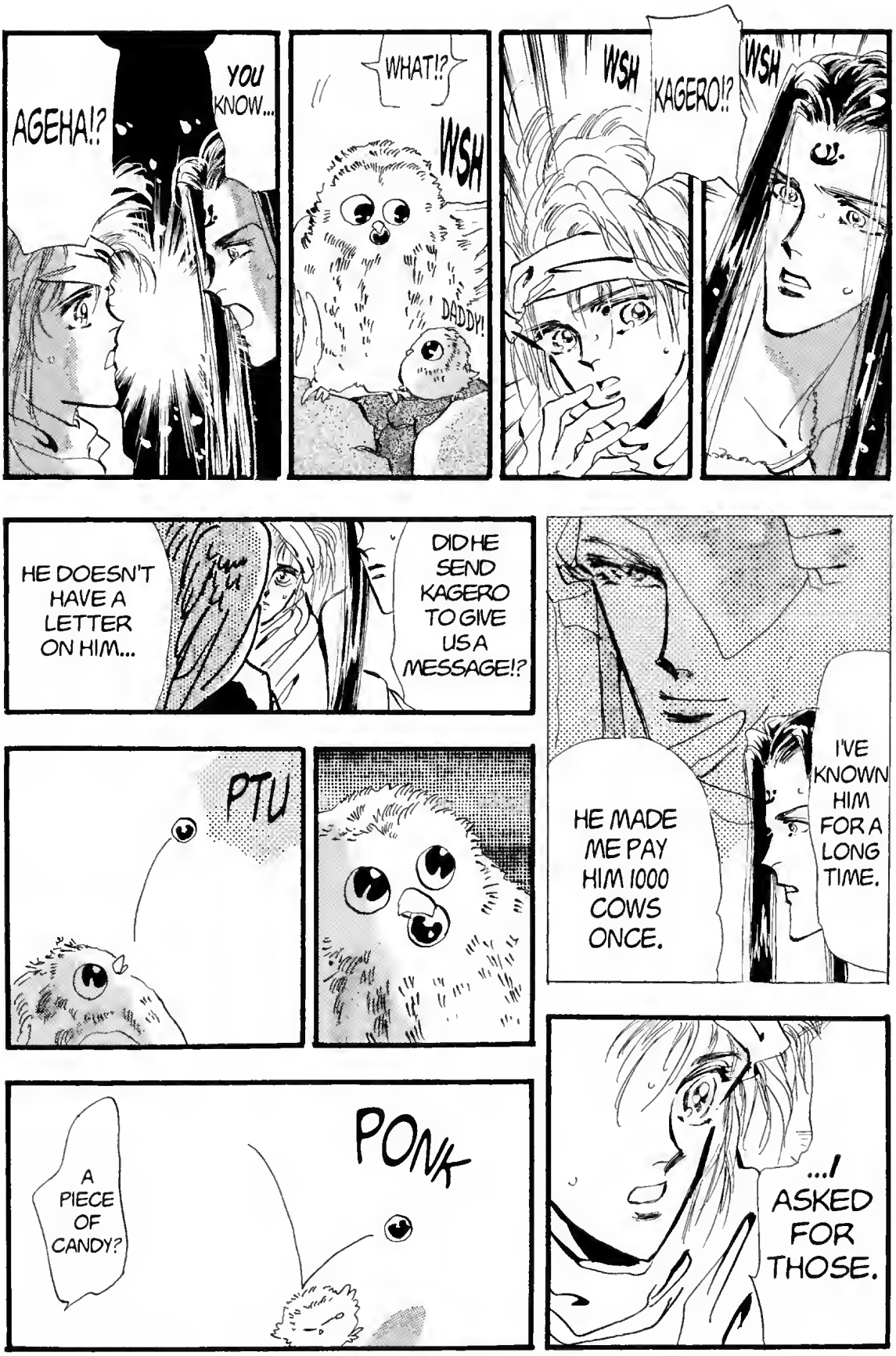
TMMMM
DMDMDM
HFF
HFF
THWACK
GAH!
THWACK
ZZSS
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
HFF
AH...
DMIDMIDMIDMIDM
MOMMY, I'M SCARED!
MAMORU!
MAMORU, HURRY!

RRR
RRR
RRR

WHERE'S HAYATO?
I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
DM DM DM
TATARA!
HIDE BEHIND THESE ROCKS!
HFF
HFF
HSSS
HERE THEY COME AGAIN...
...SWARMING...
THE RED DEMONS...

NO.
THAT'S...
...SHIDO.
NO.
IT'S—
THE RED KING!

UH...
ONCE AGAIN...
...I AM POWER-LESS!
THE RED KING!
THE RED KING IS COM-ING!
DM DM DM
HFF
HFF
DMDM
WE'RE TRAPPED.
WHAT...
SHOULD WE DO?
WSH


AGEHA!?
YOU KNOW...
WHAT!?
WSH
DADDY!
WSH
KAGERO!?
WSH
HE DOESN'T HAVE A LETTER ON HIM...
DID HE SEND KAGERO TO GIVE US A MESSAGE!?
I'VE KNOWN HIM FOR A LONG TIME.
HE MADE ME PAY HIM 1000 COWS ONCE.
PTU
A PIECE OF CANDY?
PONK
...I ASKED FOR THOSE.

.....
AGEHA ONCE TOLD ME...
A BLACK... BALL.
SUZAKU...
HIT... WITH A BLACK... BALL...
.....
THERE ARE SOME SCRATCHES ON IT. ALMOST LOOKS LIKE...
CANDY IS THE MESSAGE?
!
...THE SEAL OF SUZAKU.
HE'S PLAY-ING...
PTU
PONK
NO, NOT WITH AGEHA INVOLVED. MAYBE THAT IS THE MESSAGE...
...HE SUSPECTED THEY SECRETLY BOUGHT EXTRAS TO KEEP FOR THEMSELVES.
...THAT WHEN THE SHOJOS IMPORTED A SHIPMENT OF CANNONS FOR THE RED KING'S BATTLESHIP KURENAI-MARU...
THE SUZAKU FLAGSHIP HAS AN ARMORY...
WHERE WOULD IT BE!?
WHERE'S THEIR FLAGSHIP!?
BUT...
MAYBE A CANNON WILL!
TMMM
MMM
NEITHER SWORDS, ARROWS, NOR BULLETS
WILL AFFECT RAIJIN OR FUJIN.

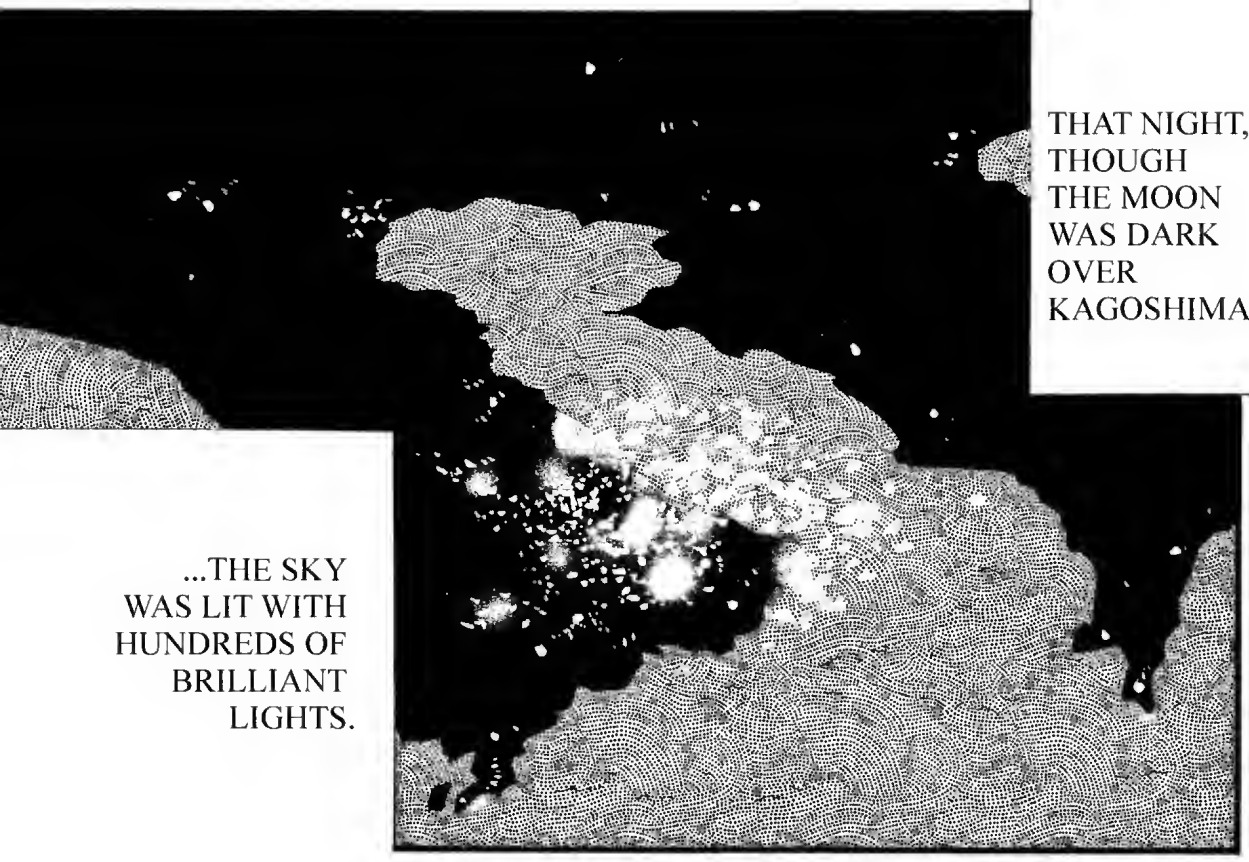
I'LL GET THE CANNON.
I'LL DO IT.
...IS CHARGE THE RAIJIN.
IT'S HOPELESS, AGEHA.
CHACHA!
ALL WE CAN DO...
IT WOULD BE AROUND NEJIME,
THAT FAR!?
IN THE SOUTHEAST, ABOUT FIVE KILOMETERS AWAY...
I'LL FIGURE THAT OUT ONCE I GET THERE.
WHAT? HOW!?
AND THEN...
AND THEN!?
I'LL SWIM PAST THE FUJIN.
ALL RIGHT.
ONE HOUR.
TATARA...
WAIT FOR ME.
ONE HOUR.
RIDE THIS OUT FOR ONE HOUR.

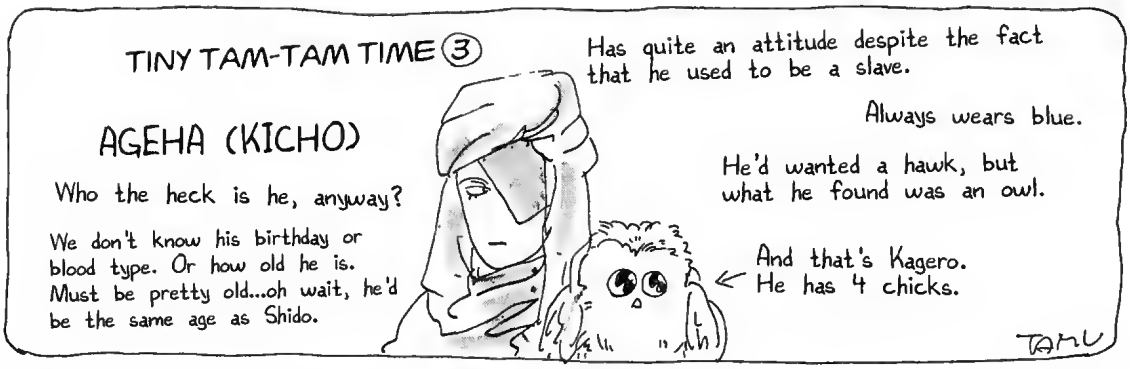
IF YOU DON'T COME BACK,
I'LL TELL THEM I'M TATARA..
....AND OFFER THEM MY HEAD.
KAKU!
SO...
...YOU MUST SUC-CEED.
YOU MUST COME BACK SAFELY.
I WILL.
ZAKI,
GO WITH HIM.
BUT...
I WANT...
...TO STAY WITH YOU.
GO.
FOR ME.

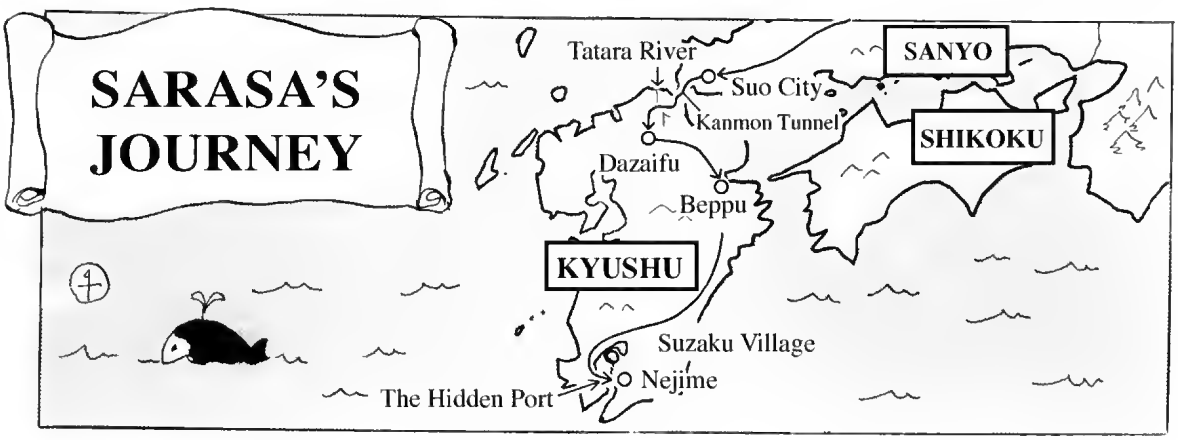
...TAKE THE CANNON FROM THE SHOJOS, AND GET BACK HERE WITHIN AN HOUR.
I HAVE TO GET PAST THE RAIJIN AND THE FUJIN...
IS THAT...
...EVEN POSSI-BLE?
HOW CAN I DO THIS!?

CHARTREUSE TALE 5: DIVINE WIND

PISH
PLISH PLASH
...I UNDER-STAND.
THE TIDE'S COMING IN.
THE AREA WHERE THEY'RE WAITING WILL BE UNDER WATER SOON.
TATARA,
ONE HOUR IS REALLY ALL YOU HAVE.
ZZS
ZSSH


THAT NIGHT, THOUGH THE MOON WAS DARK OVER KAGOSHIMA...
...THE SKY WAS LIT WITH HUNDREDS OF BRILLIANT LIGHTS.


TINY TAM-TAM TIME (3)
AGEHA (KICHO)
Who the heck is he, anyway?
We don't know his birthday or blood type. Or how old he is. Must be pretty old...oh wait, he'd be the same age as Shido.
Has quite an attitude despite the fact that he used to be a slave.
Always wears blue.
He'd wanted a hawk, but what he found was an owl.
And that's Kagero. He has 4 chicks.
TAMU


SARASA'S JOURNEY
Tatara River
Suo City
Kanmon Tunnel
Dazaifu
Beppu
SANYO
SHIKOKU
KYUSHU
Suzaku Village
Nejime
The Hidden Port

TEAMS OF 20 HORSES EACH, TETHERED TOGETHER BY IRON.
RAIJIN THREATENS BY LAND.
2000 CAVALRY STANDING ABREAST.
AN ARMORED FORCE WITHOUT MATCH.
FUJIN THREATENS BY SEA.
OVER 200 SHIPS, GREAT AND SMALL.
AN UNBEATABLE FLEET OUTFITTED WITH FIREARMS STILL RARE IN THIS COUNTRY.

EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM— AND CRUSH THEM!
FIND TATARA AND THE PIRATES—
SHIDO - HIGH COMMANDER AND CHIEF OF DAZAIFU
EVERY-ONE,
CHACHA, GET BACK.
BE QUIET, SO WE DON'T GET CAUGHT.
IT'S THE SAME.
TMM
MMM
JUST LIKE WHEN THE RED KING BROUGHT ALL KYUSHU...
...UNDER HIS CONTROL.
LET'S WAIT ...
...FOR TATARA'S RETURN.

TIME LIMIT.
ONE HOUR. BUT...
IS BEYOND THE FUJIN!
THE SUZAKU FLAG-SHIP...
OUR ONLY HOPE...
...IS FOR TATARA TO RETURN WITH THE CANNON...
...THEY'LL BE FOUND BY THE ENEMY.
HFF
HFF
IF WE TAKE TOO LONG...
I'VE GOT TO HURRY!
HFF
HFF
I'VE GOT TO HURRY.
...THE CANNON WE HOPE IS ON THE SUZAKU FLAGSHIP.

THE RED KING...
COULD HE EVER UNDER-STAND THIS FEELING!?
I WANT TO HELP SOME-ONE!
I WILL SAVE THEM.
THIS TIME—
THEY CALLED ME...
...THEIR FRIEND.
THEY HAVE FAITH THAT I'LL RETURN.
I'M... SORRY... ZAKI.
KOF
I'VE NEVER DONE MUCH SWIMMING...
KOF
KOF HUK
HAK
IS DOG PADDL-ING
THE BEST YOU CAN DO?
GLUB
PSH
WAH!

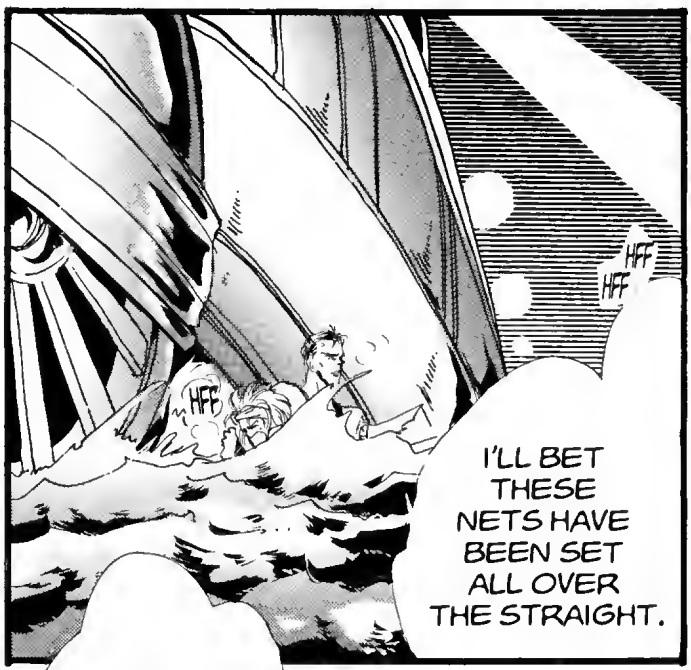
TATARA...
IF IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE CAN RETURN IN ONE HOUR... BY 11PM...
I'LL KILL YOU.
AND GIVE YOUR BODY TO THE RED ARMY.
YOU'RE NOT WORTH...
...CHACHA'S LIFE.

STAY SHARP.
SOME OF THEM MIGHT BE HIDING IN THE WATER.
NNG
PSH
SLSH
BISH
HUH!?

A NET!
I'M GETTING TANGLED UP!
WE GOT SOME-THING!
A FISH!?
IT COULD BE THE PIRATES! FIND OUT!
WASH
UP

AND HE'S NOT THAT GOOD WITH A SWORD.
HE CAN HARDLY SWIM.
...BE TATARA?
CAN *HE*...

HH!
GWB

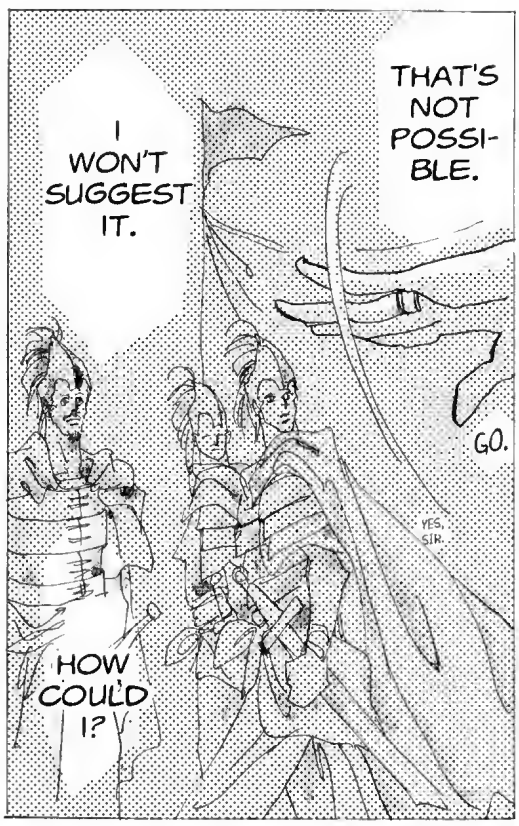

HFF
HFF
HFF
I'LL BET THESE NETS HAVE BEEN SET ALL OVER THE STRAIGHT.

WE'LL HAVE TO QUIETLY CUT THROUGH EVERY ONE OF THEM.
SPSH
SPSH

THAT WILL TAKE TOO MUCH TIME.
SSS

WHEN HE FOUGHT CHACHA...
...IT SEEMED HE HAD POTENTIAL, BUT...

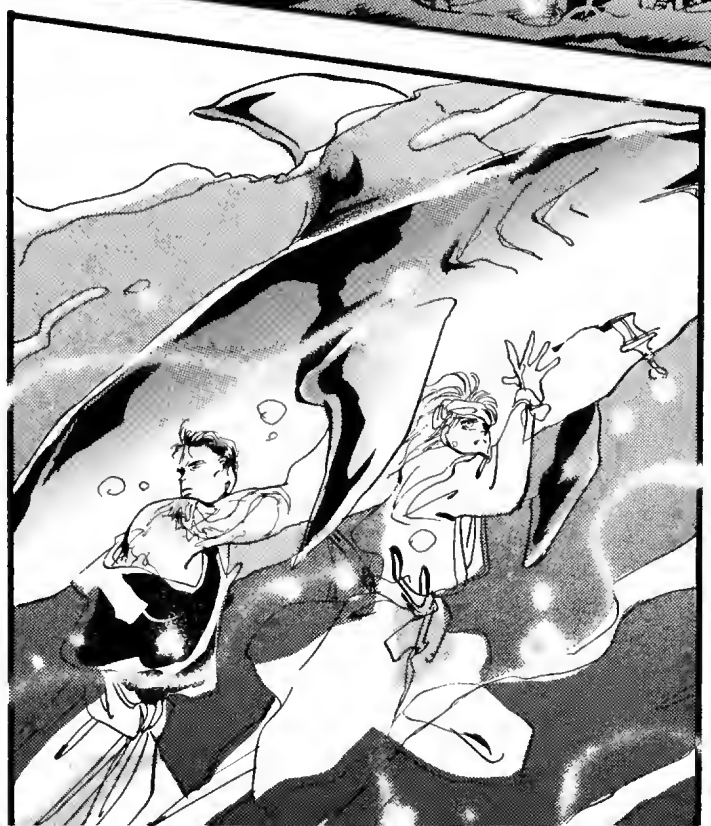
EVERY-ONE...
...HAS HIS OWN IMAGE OF TATARA.
LOOKS LIKE HIM...
BUT WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE!?
SIR,
WE'RE EXAMINING THE BODIES WE'VE FOUND.
BUT NOTHING LOOKS LIKE HIM SO FAR...
CAN'T YOU FIND TATARA YET?
SHURI.
COULD WE HAVE MADE A FUNDA-MENTAL MISTAKE...
...ABOUT TATARA'S IDENTITY?
AGEHA.
THIS TATARA...
IS HE THE KIND OF BOY ALL THESE RUMORS DESCRIBE?
BACK ALREADY.
...AND WHAT IF HE ISN'T?
MAYBE HE'S OLD?
HEH HEH.
LET ME GUESS WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.


I WON'T SUGGEST IT.
THAT'S NOT POSSI-BLE.
HOW COULD I?
GO.
YES, SIR.

THE GREAT RED KING IS HAVING ALL THIS TROUBLE... CATCHING A LITTLE GIRL!
SILENCE!

"WHERE DID THAT GIRL, SARASA, GO?"
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE...
"COULD SHE BE TATARA?"

AND YET...

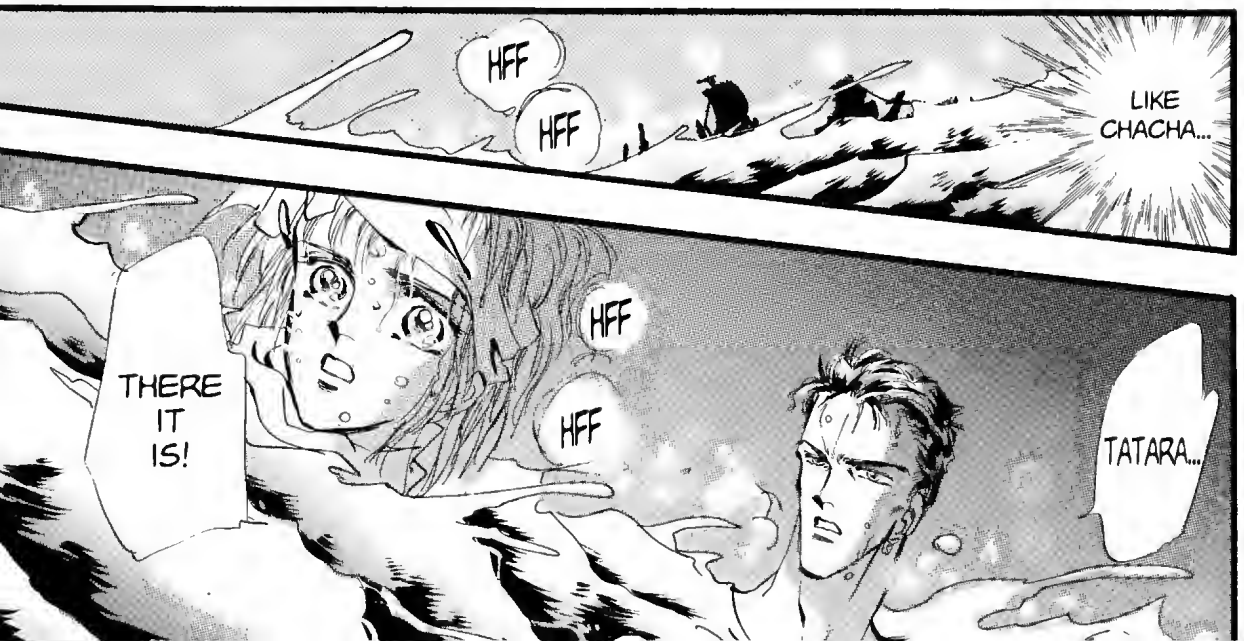


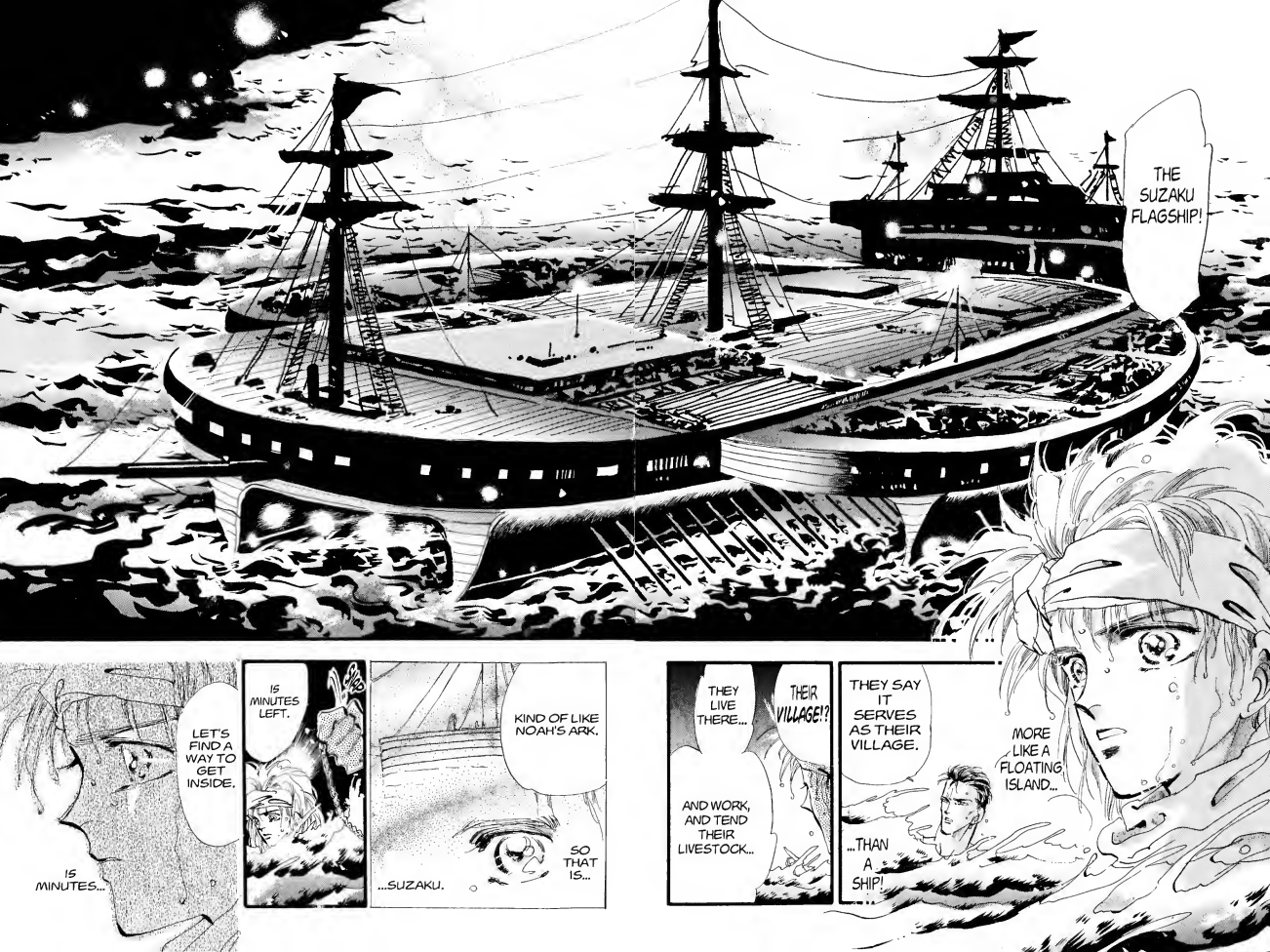
HEY! SHARK!
BRR
I HEAR THIS PLACE IS INFESTED WITH SHARKS.
PISH—PASH

BUBB
...SO HEAVY...
MY LIMBS FEEL...
30 MINUTES?
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...
JUST LIKE THE LION IN THE TUNNEL.
...WAITING TO EAT ME...
IF I SHOW FATIGUE.
THE EYES OF A LION...
NG

ZAKI...
...ARE YOU CHACHA'S BOY-FRIEND?
PSH
TALKING WILL MAKE YOU MORE TIRED.
SPSH
SPSH
TALKING... TAKES MY MIND OFF IT...
SO YOU LIKE HER, DO YOU?
HEH.
MAYBE.
RRR
FORGET IT.
CHACHA...
I BELONG TO HER,
BUT SHE'S NOT MINE TO CLAIM.
...BELONGS TO EVERY-ONE.
SHE WON'T BE YOURS EITHER.
I'M PROTECTING HER, JUST AS MY PARENTS...
...PROTECTED HER PARENTS.

HFF
HFF
COULD I?
COULD I BE STRONG LIKE HER?
...HAVE TO BE SOMEONE LIKE THAT, TOO?
DO I...
THOSE WHO LIVE IN THE DARK-NESS...
...YEARN FOR SOMEONE THEY CAN TRULY SERVE...
...AND TRULY RESPECT.

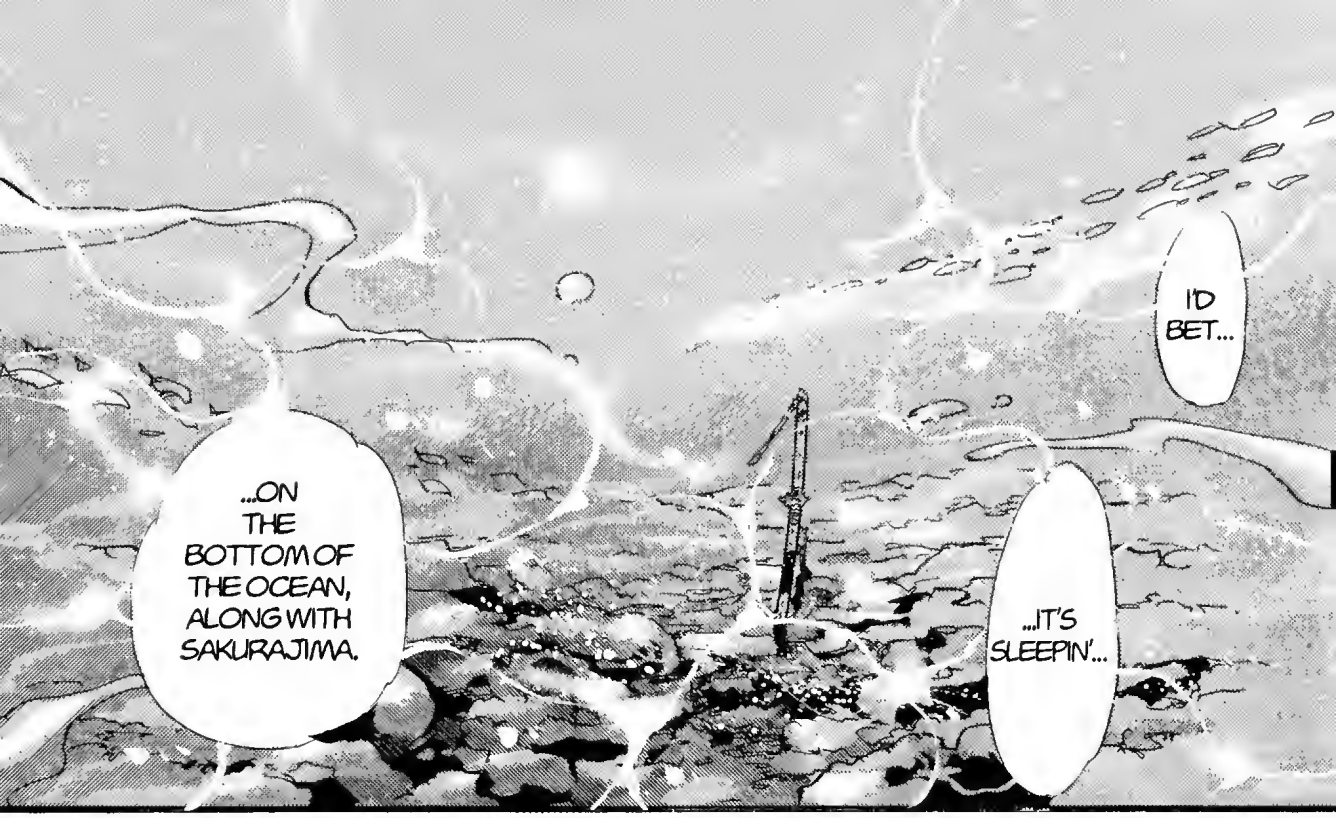

HFF
HFF
LIKE CHACHA...
THERE IT IS!
HFF
HFF
TATARA...

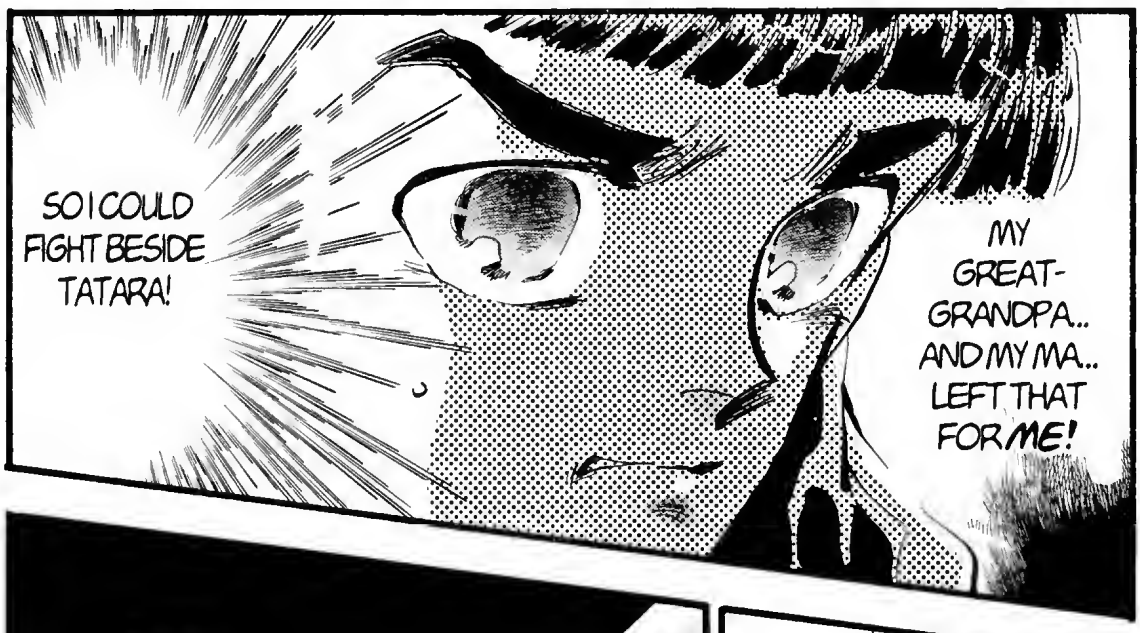

THE SUZAKU FLAGSHIP!
MORE LIKE A FLOATING ISLAND...
...THAN A SHIP!
THEY SAY IT SERVES AS THEIR VILLAGE.
THEIR VILLAGE!?
THEY LIVE THERE...
AND WORK, AND TEND THEIR LIVESTOCK...
KIND OF LIKE NOAH'S ARK.
SO THAT IS...
...SUZAKU.
15 MINUTES LEFT.
LET'S FIND A WAY TO GET INSIDE.
15 MINUTES...

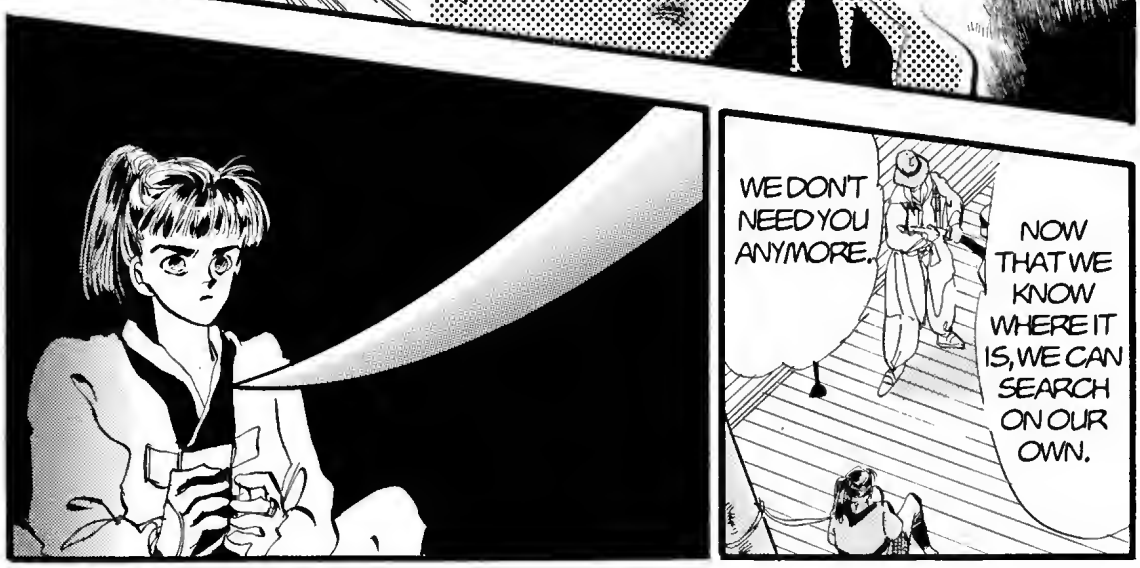
INSIDE THE SHIP.
I TOLD YOU,
I KNOW NOTHING!
HAYATO→
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
DON'T PLAY TH'FOOL.
YOU'RE RASHO'S GREAT-GRAND-SON.
YOUR PARENTS MUSTA TOLD YOU SOMETHIN'.
THAT'S WHY YOU CAME HERE!

THE ONLY THINGS HE HAD WERE THIS OLD SWORD,
BOW 'N' ARROWS...
BOW 'N' ARROW...
...SOME FOOD...
...AND AN OLD MAP OF SUZAKU.
BECAUSE OF THEM, MY GRANDPA AND POP WERE IMPRISONED...
...AND MA HAD TO DIE...
...A MISERABLE DEATH.
THE ONLY STORY I HEARD
WAS THAT YOUR CLAN...
...BETRAYED MY FAMILY AND TOOK OVER THE SUZAKU.
SSS
IT'S FADING!
HUH?
WHAT?
IT FADES WHEN IT DRIES.
MUST BE THAT INK THAT SHOWS UP WHEN IT'S WET!
MARK?
THERE WAS NO MARK BEFORE.
WHAT'S THIS MARK?

I THOUGHT YOU HAD IT!
WHAT THE HECK?
WHERE THE SUZAKU SWORD IS HIDDEN!
THIS MUST BE IT, BROTHER!
WE DID IT!
SHHH.
NOT SO LOUD.
THE VILLAGERS DON'T KNOW.
THE ONE WE HAVE IS A FAKE.
THEY SAY THE SWORD CHOOSES ITS MASTER.
THAT'S WHY WE HAD TO GET A COUNTERFEIT.
THE MASTER'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RUN THE VILLAGE.
THEN SAKURAJIMA SANK...
IT'S BEEN MISSING EVER SINCE.
...SOMEBODY IN HIS FAM'LY HID THE SWORD SOMEWHERES.
WHEN WE SOLD OFF RASHO TO THE SOVEREIGN, AND THEY TOOK 'IM AWAY...


I'D BET...
...IT'S SLEEPIN'...
...ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN, ALONG WITH SAKURAJIMA.

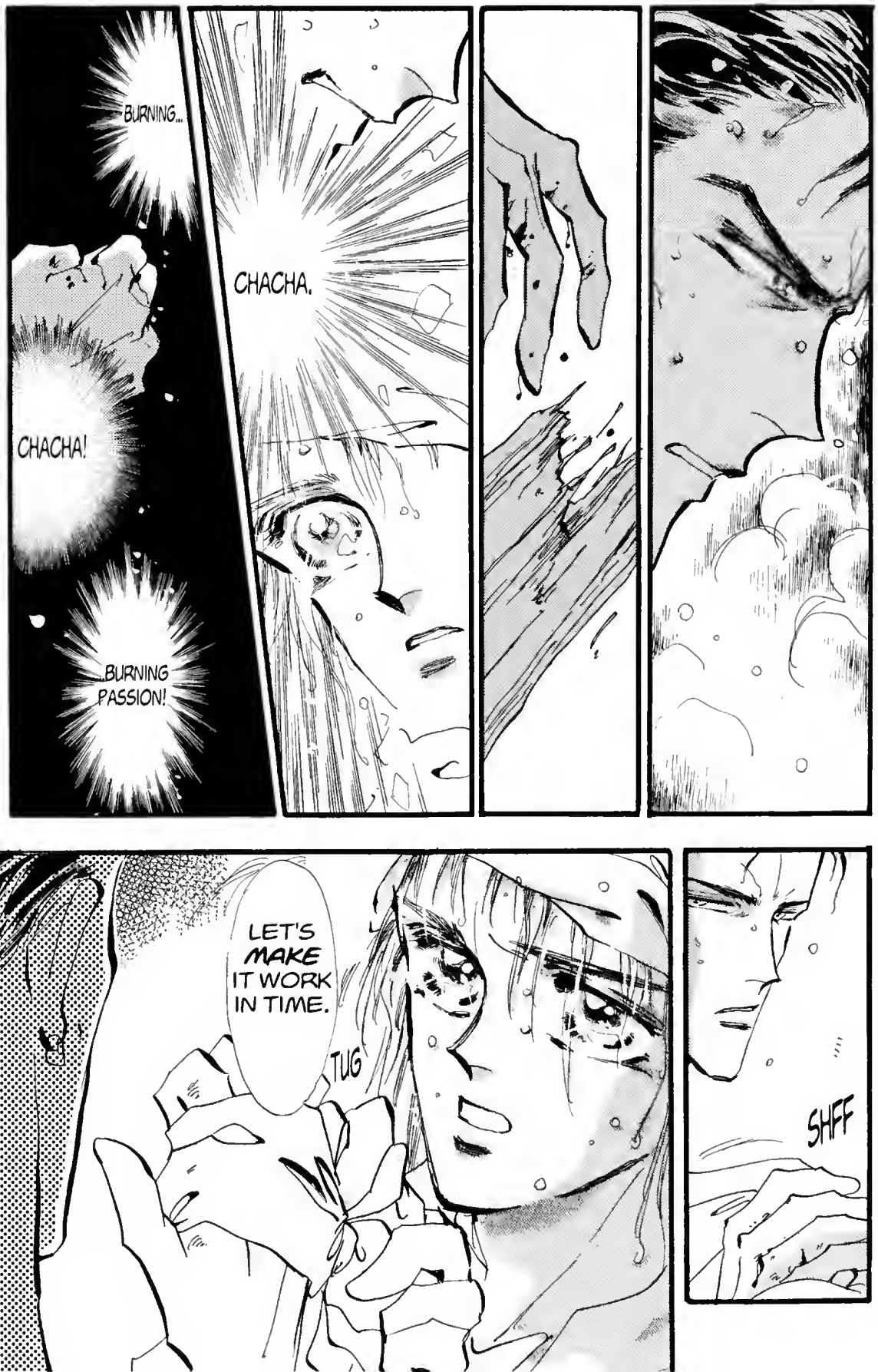

MY GREAT-GRANDPA... AND MY MA... LEFT THAT FOR ME!
SO I COULD FIGHT BESIDE TATARA!


NOW THAT WE KNOW WHERE IT IS, WE CAN SEARCH ON OUR OWN.
WE DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.

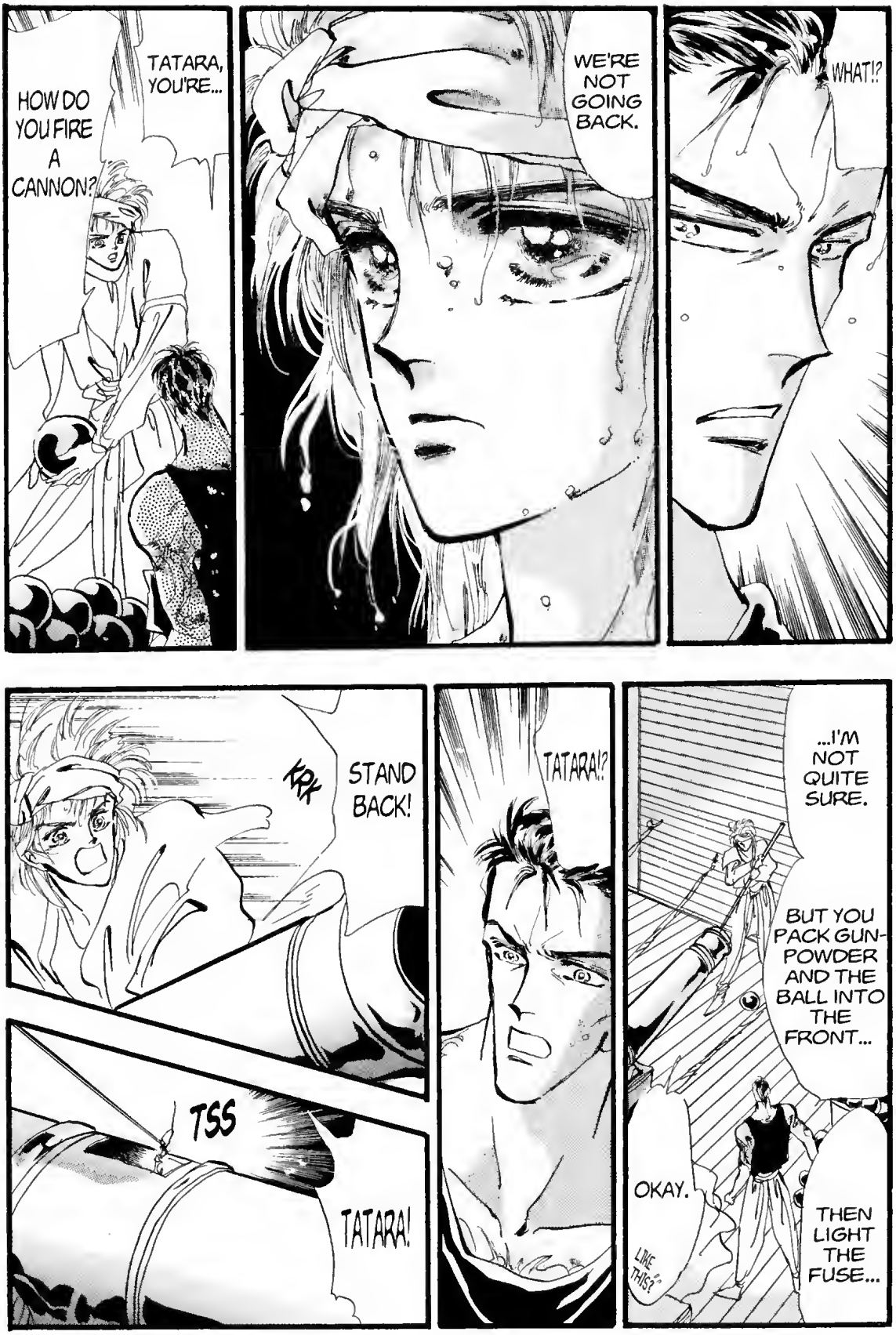
SOUNDS LIKE A FIERCE BATTLE ON SHORE.
ALL THIS TO CATCH JUST ONE PERSON?
GLMP
GAK!
I HEAR YOU HAVE AN ARMORY.
SORRY 'BOUT THIS.
WHERE IS IT?
A FEW MORE MINUTES...
HFF HFF
...AND THE HOUR WILL BE UP!
EVEN IF WE GET THE CANNON...
...WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO BACK!

RUN, CHACHA!
IF YOU'RE NOT BACK IN AN HOUR...
I'LL TELL THEM I'M TATARA AND OFFER THEM MY HEAD.
RUN!
KAKU!

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S THE ARMORY OR NOT...
...BUT THAT'S THE ONLY ROOM THE VILLAGERS AREN'T ALLOWED INTO.
IT'S LOCKED...
STAND BACK.
GNP
SHOOT

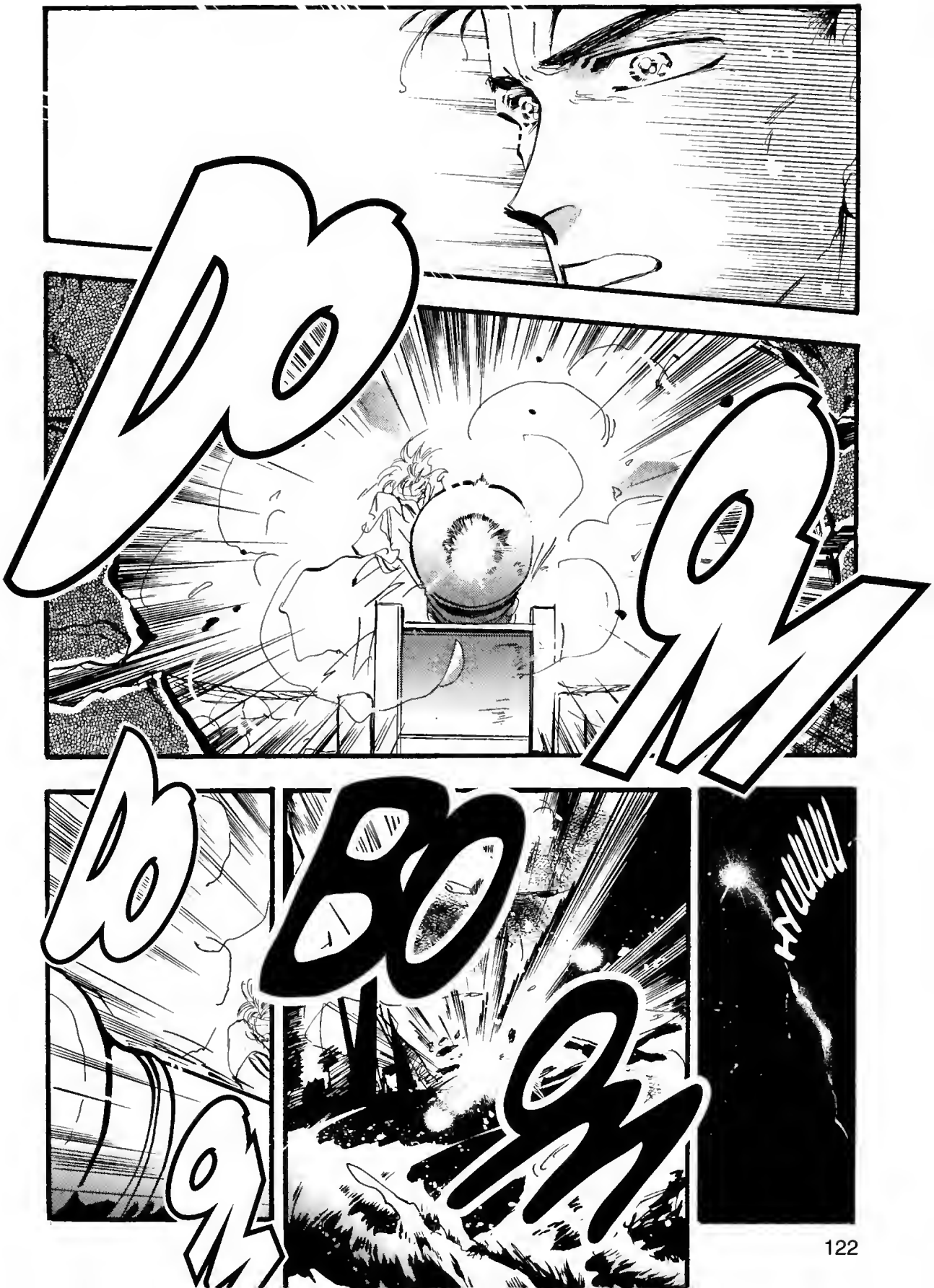

BURNING...
CHACHA!
BURNING PASSION!
CHACHA.
LET'S MAKE IT WORK IN TIME.
TUG
SHFF

A CANNON!
KRE
FOOSH
A 32 LB CANNON.
THEY ACTUALLY HAD ONE.
HOW CAN WE GET BACK?
IT'S TOO HEAVY.
WE CAN'T CARRY IT ON A BOAT–
ESPECIALLY WITH AMMO–
WE'RE NOT GOING BACK.

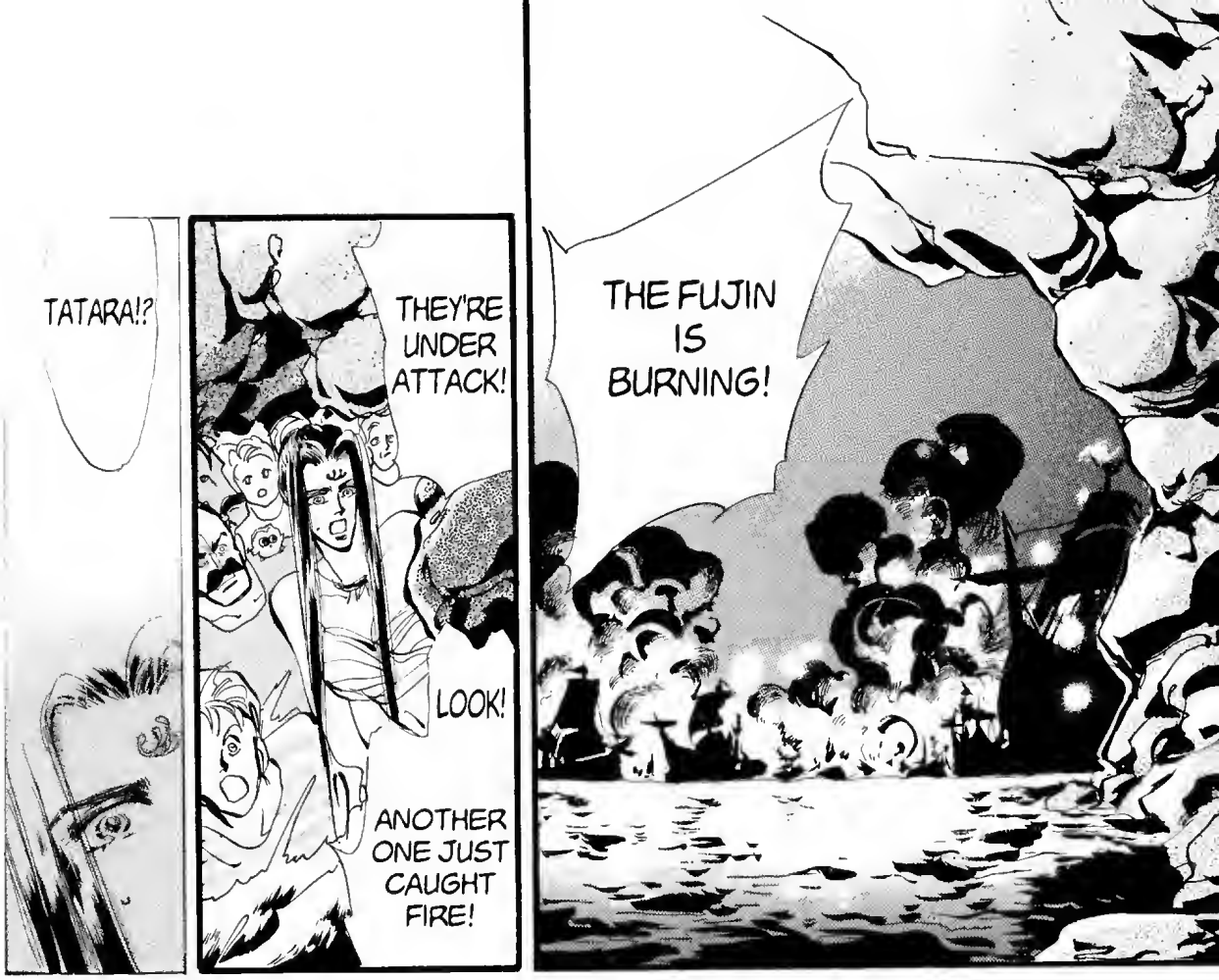

TATARA, YOU'RE...
HOW DO YOU FIRE A CANNON?
WE'RE NOT GOING BACK.
WHAT!?
...I'M NOT QUITE SURE.
BUT YOU PACK GUN-POWDER AND THE BALL INTO THE FRONT...
THEN LIGHT THE FUSE...
OKAY.
LIKE THIS?
TATARA!?
KRK
STAND BACK!
TSS
TATARA!

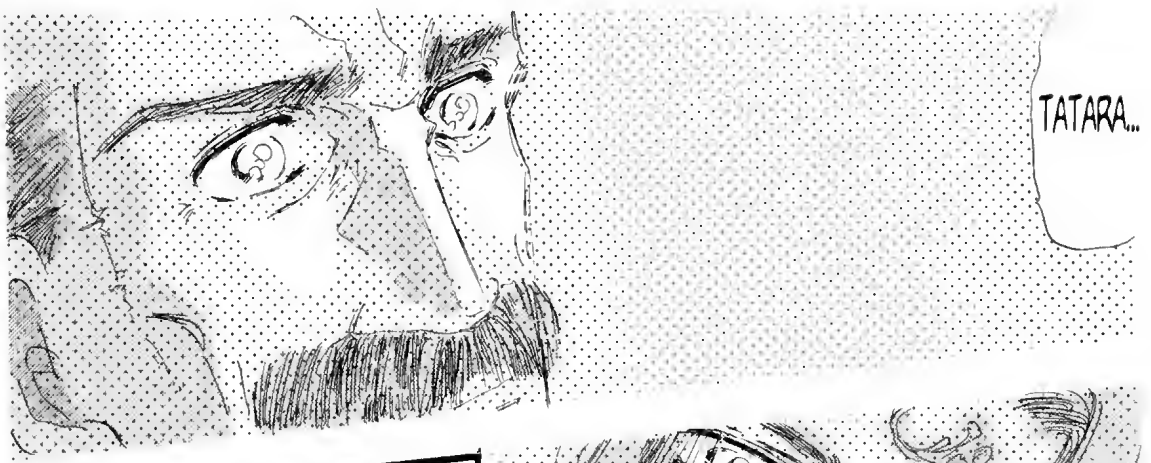
WHAT ARE YOU-
BOOM
BAM

KRAK
SNAP
KRAK
THE FUJIN!
WE'LL FIRE ON THE FUJIN FROM HERE!
ZAKI!
TATARA!


BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
HYUUUU

KO
OW
POW
WAAH!
DOOM
DOOM
WHAT'S GOIN' ON!?
TATARA!?
WHAT HAPPENED!?
THIS IS...
INSANE...
AND YET...


THE FUJIN IS BURNING!
THEY'RE UNDER ATTACK!
LOOK!
ANOTHER ONE JUST CAUGHT FIRE!
TATARA!?


TATARA...

LISTEN UP!
WE'VE GOT TO SWIM OUT OF HERE!
OUT TO WHERE THE RAIJIN CAN'T GET US!
HE DID IT...

KEEPING A SECRET CANNON...
...IS TREASON ENOUGH, SHOJOS!
HA HA HA!
BUT...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE. DID THEY JOIN HANDS WITH TATARA!?
THE SUZAKU FLAGSHIP IS BOMBARDING THE FUJIN!?
WHAT!?
NO...
I MUSTN'T TROUBLE SHURI RIGHT NOW.
FORGET IT.
NO, WAIT...
THE BATTLESHIP CRIMSON MUST BE KEPT TO DEFEND AGAINST FOREIGN THREATS.
SEND A COURIER TO THE RED KING.
HAVE THE CRIM-SON SENT...

I'M SICK OF YOUR SARCASM.
AS CONSCI-ENTIOUS AS ALWAYS.
SHUT UP!
WHY NOT JUST ASK THE RED KING FOR HELP?
I CAN'T LOSE...
...ANY MORE OF SHURI'S SHIPS.
...WILL BE YOUR DOWNFALL, SHIDO.
SORRY.
THAT CONSCIEN-TIOUSNESS...
BOOM
HAVE THE FUJIN RETREAT.
LAUNCH THE SMALL SHIPS!
SINK THE SUZAKU FLAGSHIP!

AYE!
GET MOVING!
WE GOTTA CAPTURE TATARA!
AND HURRY!!
GOT THAT!?
IT'S OVER FOR US.
THE RED KING WILL FINISH US.
DOOM
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
TATARA, YOU BASTARD!
ROT IN HELL!
THIS RUINS EVERYTHING!
NOW THE SUZAKU WILL BE LABELED AS TRAITORS!
URK!
HOLD IT! YOU THINK YOU'RE GONNA SNEAK AWAY BY YOURSELVES!?
HEY, STOP!
HSSS
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!

TOK
HUH?
IT SNAPPED IN TWO!
THE SUZAKU SWORD!
THIS ISN'T THE SUZAKU SWORD AT ALL!
THE SHOJOS TREATED IT LIKE THE REAL THING
BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE POWER IT GAVE THEM!
IS IT TRUE?
JUST FOR THAT—
THEY RUINED MY FAMILY!
WHO... ARE YOU?
OH... LET ME SEE THAT RING. IT LOOKS LIKE...
YES, THIS BELONGED...
...TO LORD RASHO!
RRMMM
KRRK

RRRUM
BUB
BUB
AAAAA
...IS ANGRY WITH US...
SAKURA-JIMA...
YOU'LL PAY FOR ALL THE SUFFERING YOU CAUSED US!
UM...
UH...
WITHOUT THE SUZAKU SWORD,
THE SHOJOS HAVE NO AUTHORITY.

B
M
DI
DMM
HOO
OM
YES
AAG
YAA

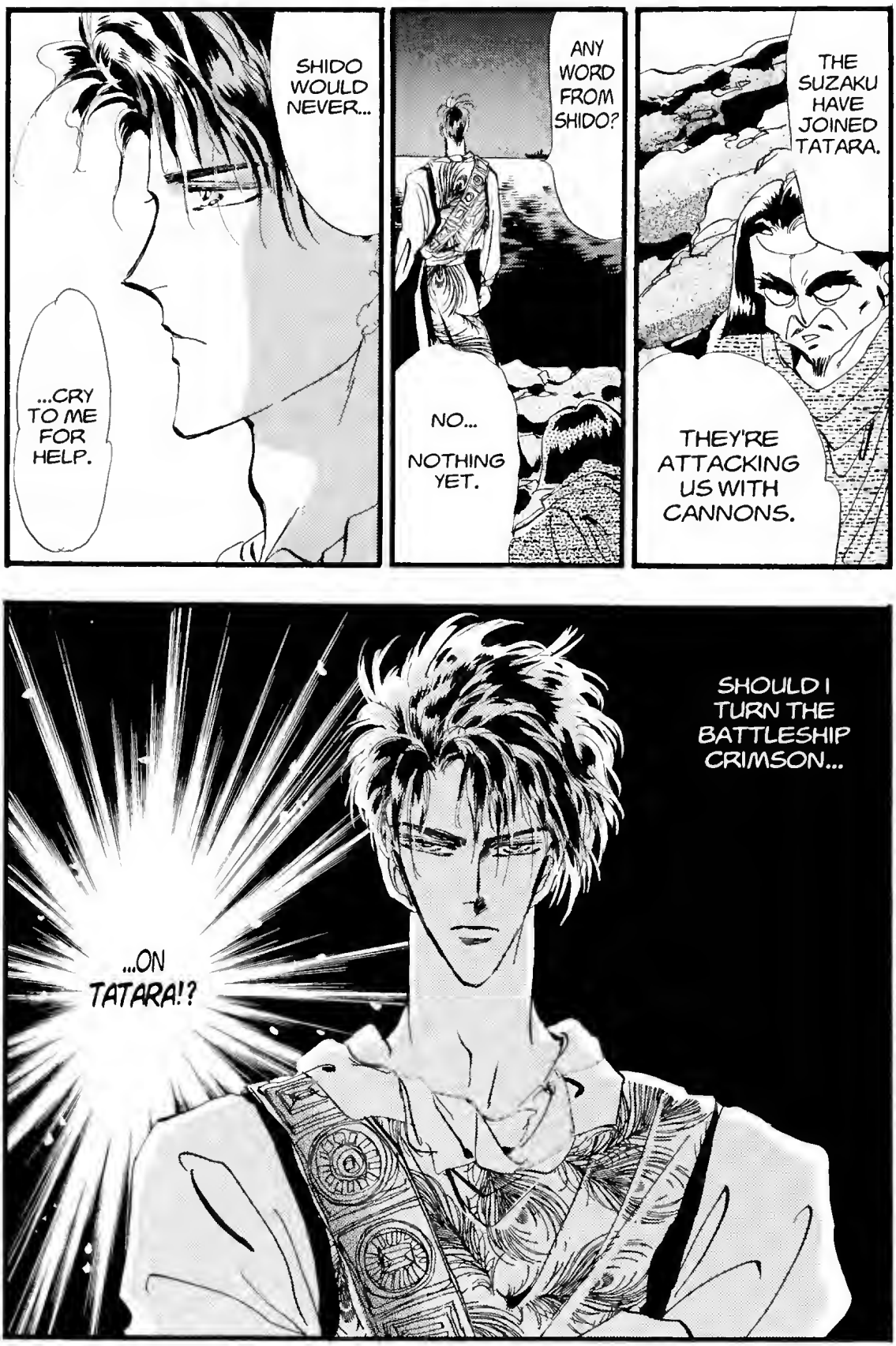
GRRR
WAH!
THOSE ARE...
...MY VILLAGE...
THE RED DEMONS THAT DESTROYED...
...RED DEMONS...

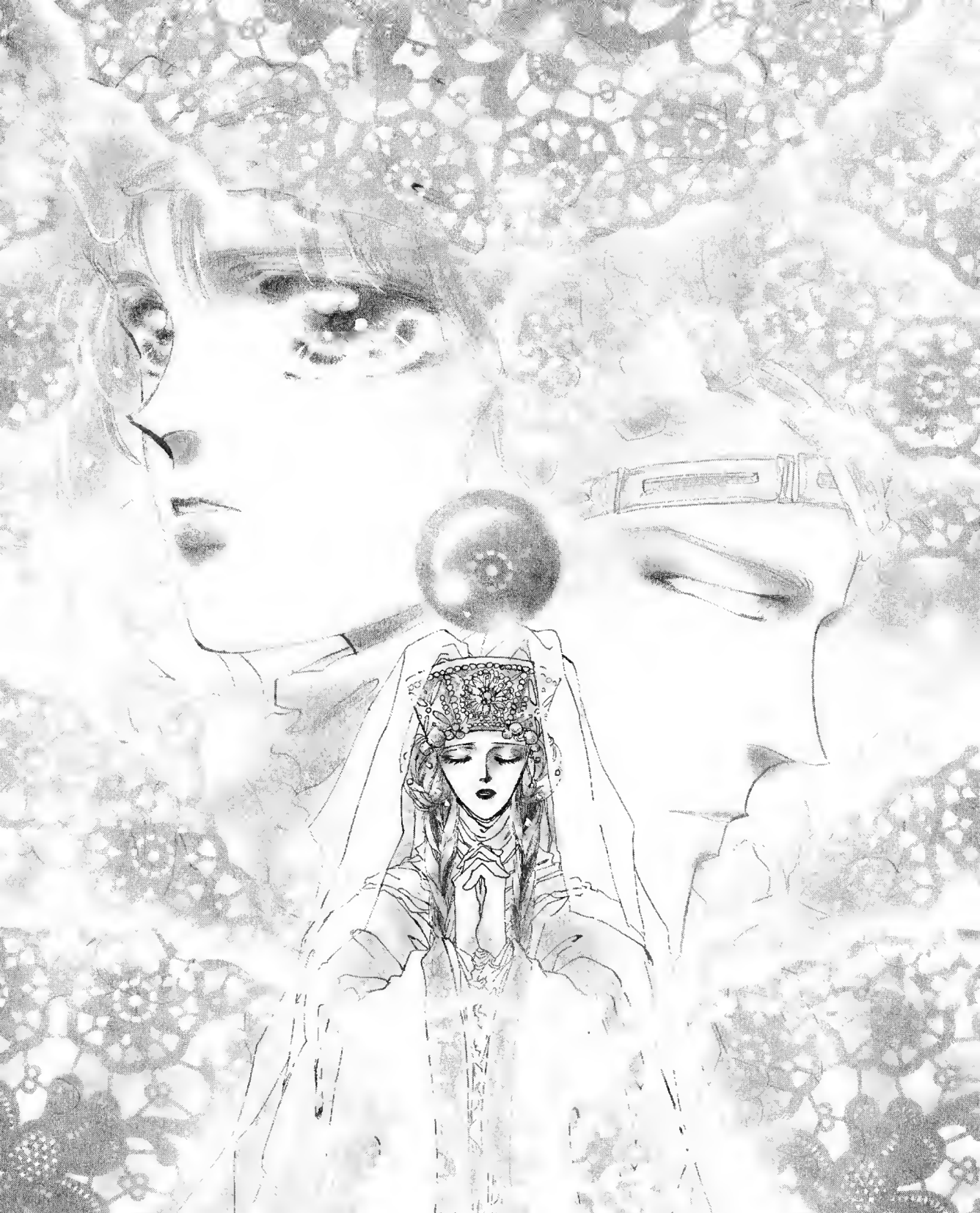
BUT...

WIPE YOUR FACE.
...YOU WERE CRYING.
IT WOULD BE EMBARRAS-SING IF PEOPLE THOUGHT...
YOU'RE THEIR LEADER.

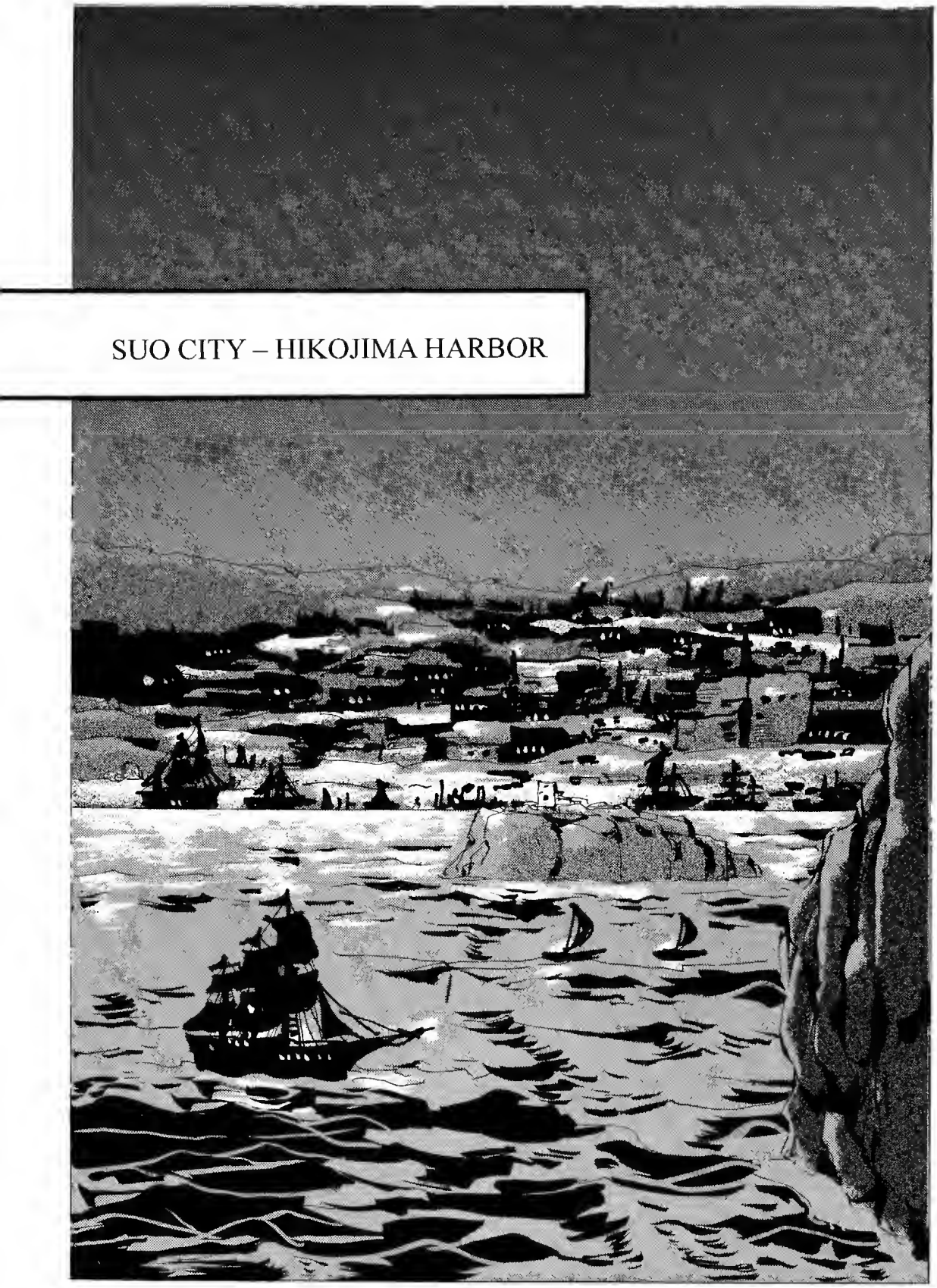
POW
BABABABA

SAKURAJIMA...
OHH!
LOOK!
IT'S ERUPTING!
KA-
SAKURA-JIMA...
-BOOM
A MESSAGE FROM OUR SPY IN KAGOSHIMA.
SIRE.


SHIDO WOULD NEVER...
...CRY TO ME FOR HELP.
ANY WORD FROM SHIDO?
NO... NOTHING YET.
THE SUZAKU HAVE JOINED TATARA.
THEY'RE ATTACKING US WITH CANNONS.
SHOULD I TURN THE BATTLESHIP CRIMSON...
...ON TATARA!?



CHARTREUSE TALE 6: UTOPIAN LAND


SUO CITY – HIKOJIMA HARBOR

TINY TAM-TAM TIME ④

NEWS

The manga I worked on before "BASARA," is "There Goes Tomoe!"

Well, an animation video has been made for "There Goes Tomoe!" It's super cool, so check it out.

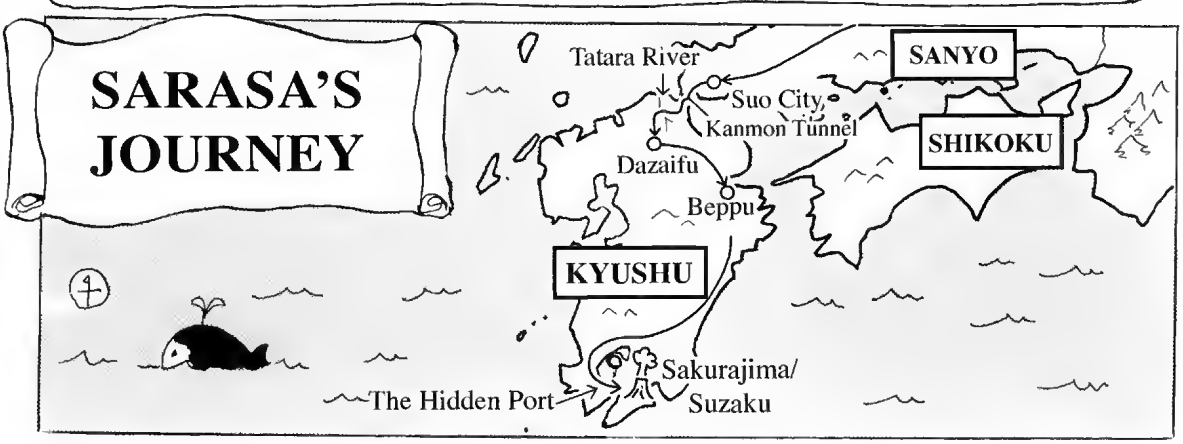
It also has beautiful music, so buy the soundtrack!

Let me know what you think!

Happy days for me!

Write me!

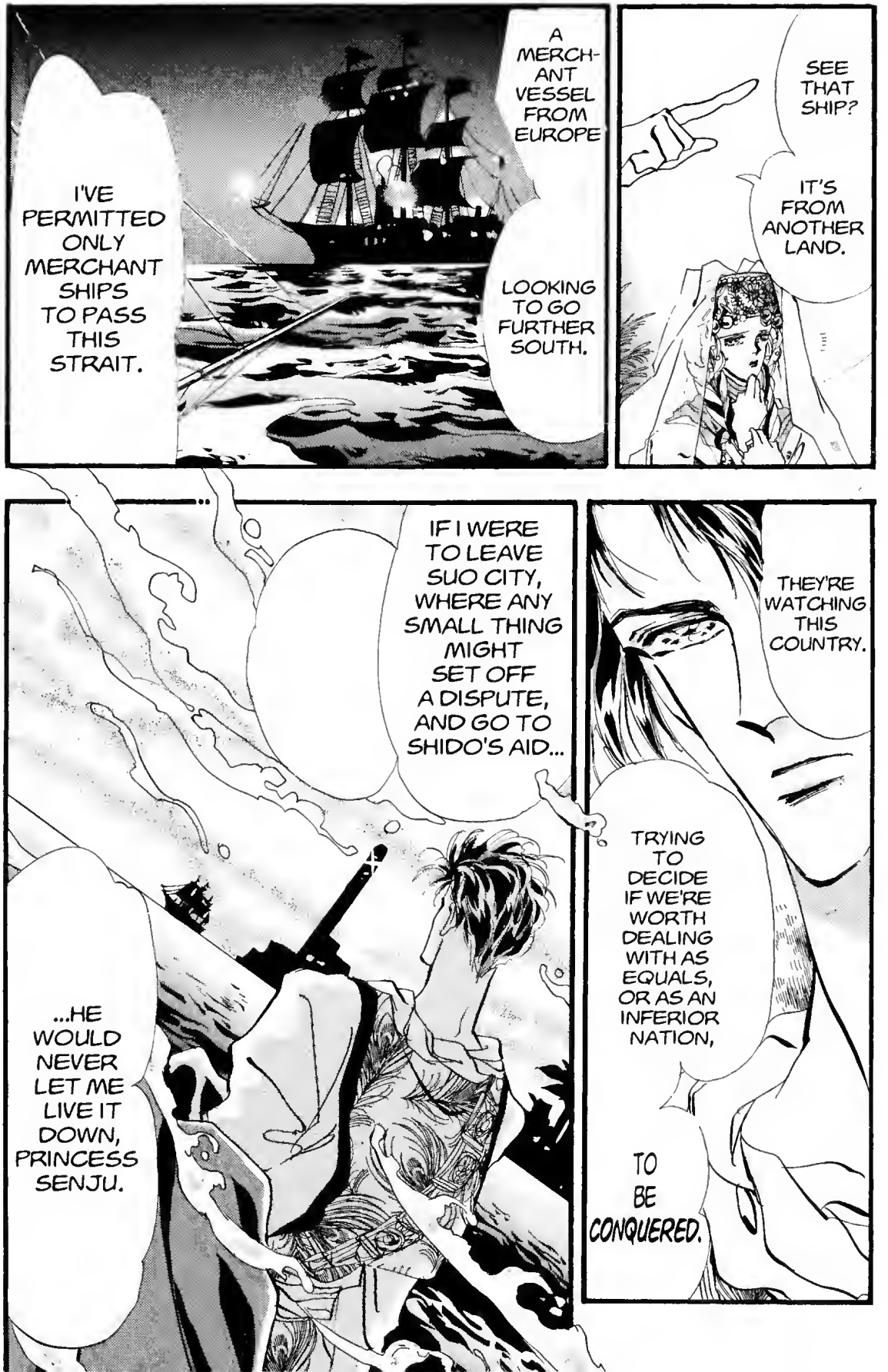
TAM.



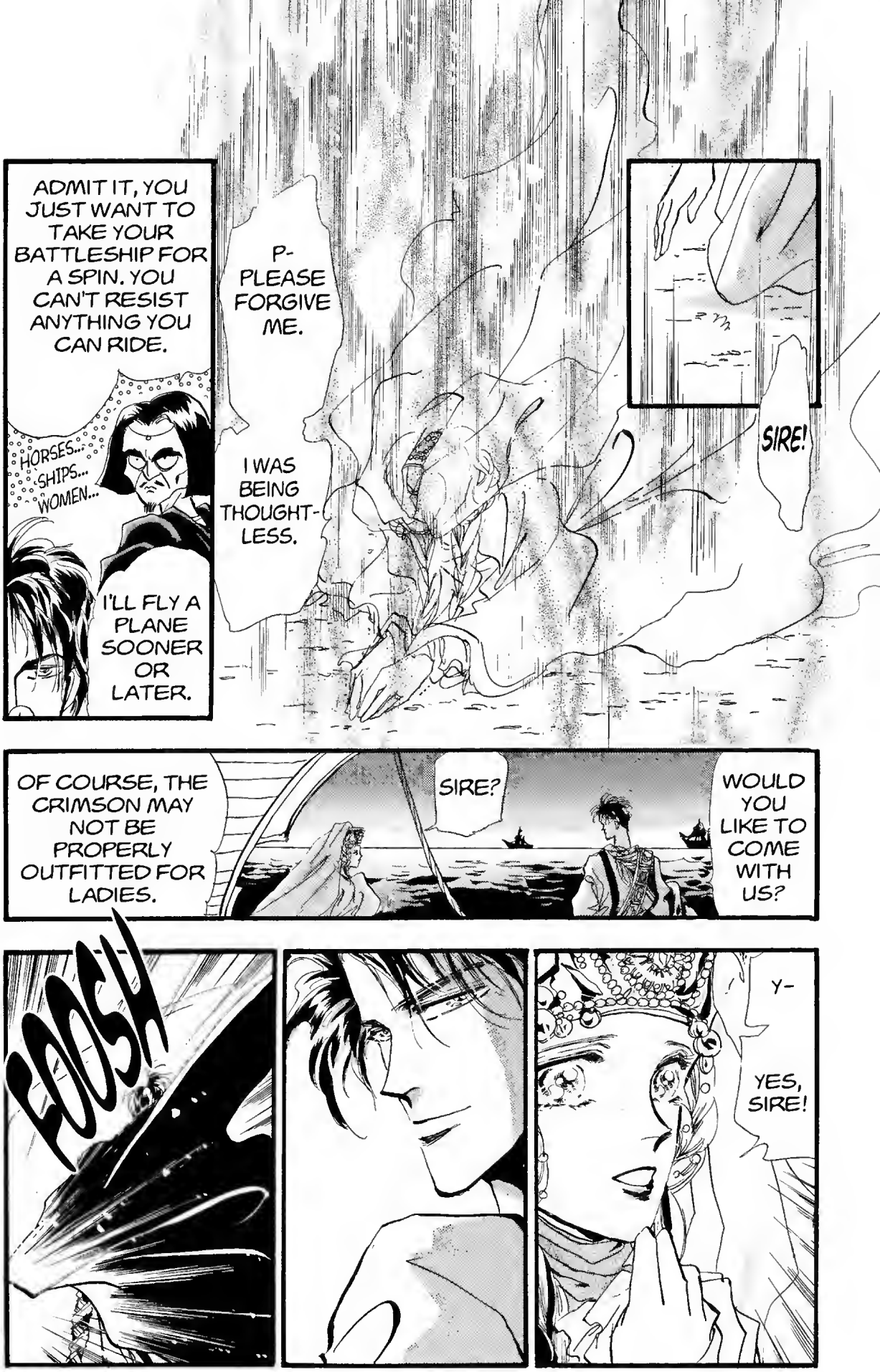
EXCUSE ME, SIRE!
THERE'S A LADY WHO CLAIMS TO BE MASTER SHIDO'S WIFE...
WHEN WAS HE MARRIED?
UNHAND ME!
...PRINCESS SENJU?
SO IT'S TRUE!?
AH!

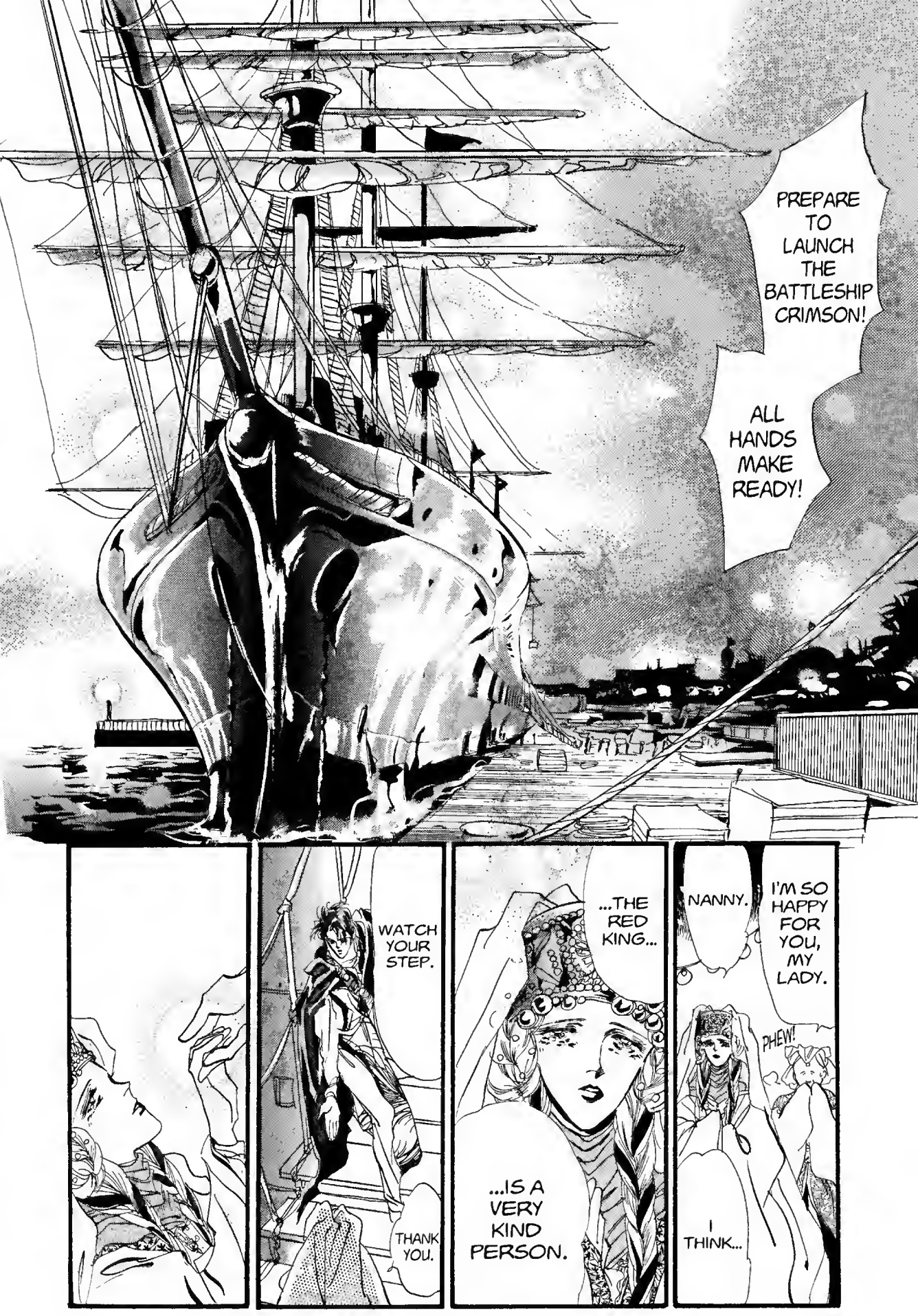
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WHY WON'T YOU GO HELP LORD SHIDO?
...AND WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, ALL THE WAY FROM DAZAIFU?
I MUST ASK THE RED KING.
SHE'S SHIDO'S FIANCÉE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
I AM HIS WIFE!
NOW...
...YET WILL YOU SAY HE'S JUST ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR MEN?
LORD SHIDO IS RISKING HIS LIFE FOR YOU...
PRINCESS! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!?
P-

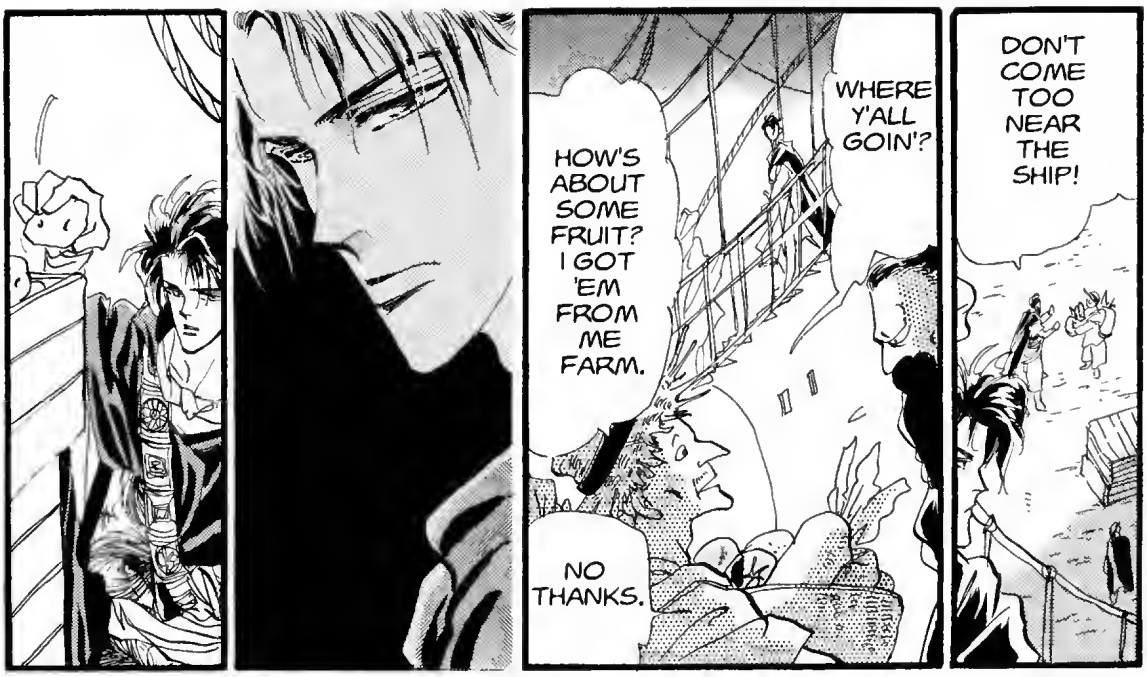
"THE LIKES OF YOU" AM I?
...I PUT SHIDO ...
...IN COMMAND OF TATARA'S SUBJUGATION.
I KNOW, BUT—
HFF HFF
MY LADY!
IF YOU WISH TO STRIKE DOWN AN IMPUDENT WOMAN, THEN DO SO.
I WILL NOT FEAR THE LIKES OF YOU.
...I WOULD BELITTLE SHIDO'S CAPABILITIES.
IF I WERE TO BARGE IN WITHOUT BEING ASKED FOR HELP...
AND HE WOULD BE SHAMED.
HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SET AN EXAMPLE TO HIS MEN.
SP
...OH...

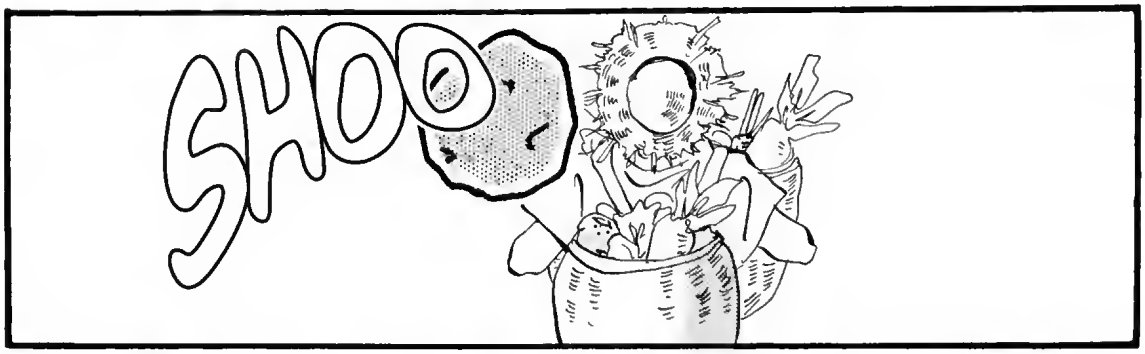

A MERCH-ANT VESSEL FROM EUROPE
I'VE PERMITTED ONLY MERCHANT SHIPS TO PASS THIS STRAIT.
LOOKING TO GO FURTHER SOUTH.
SEE THAT SHIP?
IT'S FROM ANOTHER LAND.
THEY'RE WATCHING THIS COUNTRY.
TRYING TO DECIDE IF WE'RE WORTH DEALING WITH AS EQUALS, OR AS AN INFERIOR NATION,
TO BE CONQUERED.
IF I WERE TO LEAVE SUO CITY, WHERE ANY SMALL THING MIGHT SET OFF A DISPUTE, AND GO TO SHIDO'S AID...
...HE WOULD NEVER LET ME LIVE IT DOWN, PRINCESS SENJU.

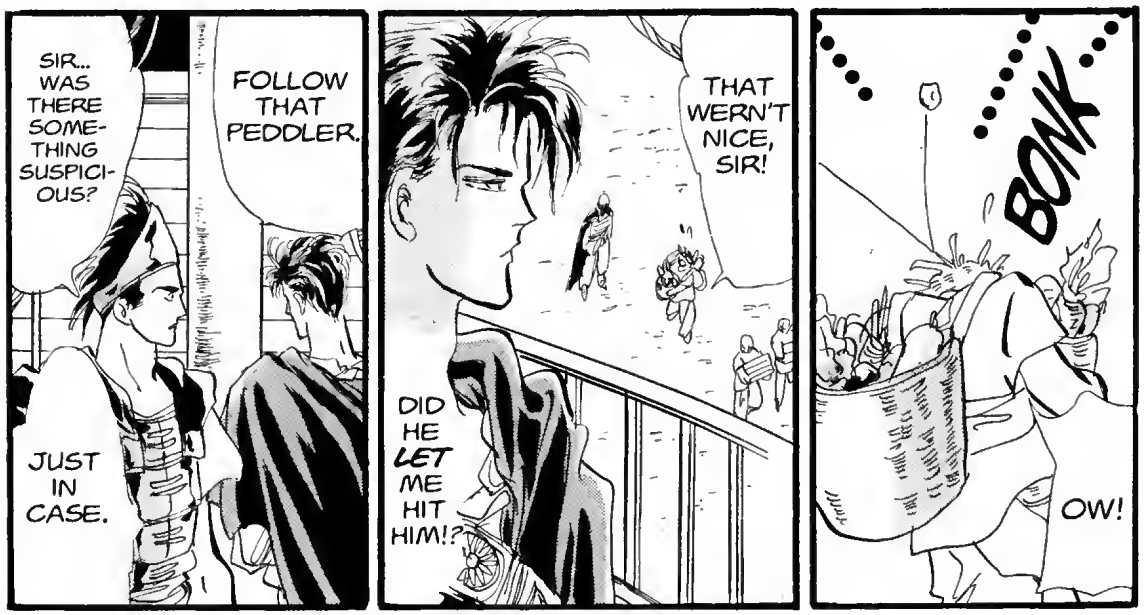
...THAT SAKURA-JIMA HAS ERUPTED.
I MIGHT HAVE TO SET SAIL FOR KAGOSHIMA, TO SEE THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE FOR MYSELF, AND EVACUATE THE LOCALS.
HOW-EVER...
...WE'VE JUST RECEIVED NEWS...
...A COUPLE OF GUN "SALUTES" TO CELEBRATE HIS MARRIAGE. SURELY HE WOULDN'T OBJECT TO THAT.
PERHAPS I COULD THROW IN...
OH!


ADMIT IT, YOU JUST WANT TO TAKE YOUR BATTLESHIP FOR A SPIN. YOU CAN'T RESIST ANYTHING YOU CAN RIDE.
HORSES... SHIPS... WOMEN...
I'LL FLY A PLANE SOONER OR LATER.
P- PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
I WAS BEING THOUGHT-LESS.
SIRE!
OF COURSE, THE CRIMSON MAY NOT BE PROPERLY OUTFITTED FOR LADIES.
SIRE?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME WITH US?
FOOSH
Y-
YES, SIRE!


PREPARE TO LAUNCH THE BATTLESHIP CRIMSON!
ALL HANDS MAKE READY!
WATCH YOUR STEP.
THANK YOU.
...THE RED KING...
...IS A VERY KIND PERSON.
NANNY.
I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, MY LADY.
PHEW!
I THINK...


DON'T COME TOO NEAR THE SHIP!
WHERE Y'ALL GOIN'?
HOW'S ABOUT SOME FRUIT? I GOT 'EM FROM ME FARM.
NO THANKS.


SHOO


SIR... WAS THERE SOME-THING SUSPICI-OUS?
FOLLOW THAT PEDDLER.
JUST IN CASE.
THAT WERN'T NICE, SIR!
DID HE *LET* ME HIT HIM!?
BONK
OW!

SET SAIL!
BWOOO
HARD TO PORT!
WE'RE HEADING TO SAKURA-JIMA.
SSS
ZZZ
YAY!
BON VOYAGE!
YAY!
SSS
ZZSH
SHH
TIE A YELLOW RIBBON TO A TREE.
LORD SHIDO...
AS A CHARM FOR MY SAFE RETURN.
THE WIND...

AAA
SHHAAA
EVERY TIME THE SAND BLEW.
EVERY TIME THE WIND GUSTED.
I WISH...
...THAT TATARA MAY BE STRUCK DOWN BY GOD'S LIGHTNING.
DEAR GOD.
I MAY COME TO HATE A MAN.
HOW DO THEY GO ON?
IS THIS HOW ALL WOMEN FEEL WHEN THEY SEND THEIR LOVED ONES TO WAR!?
ANXIETY MOUNTED LIKE SILT IN THE BOTTOM OF MY SOUL.

AHH... JUST IN TIME.
KCH
KCH
THE EUROPEAN MERCHANT SHIP.
OOF.
SHHF
THE RED KING ALMOST SAW THROUGH ME.
THE CRIMSON IS OUT OF SIGHT.
BOOM
BOOM

I CAN'T SEE THE LIGHTS FROM SUO CITY ANYMORE.
ZSSS
ZSSS
YOU SHOULD COME VISIT SOME-TIME WITH SHIDO.
I'LL SHOW YOU THE JUJUBE GROVES AND VINEYARDS HE PLANTED,
THE WATER-WAYS HE BUILT,
AND THE CITY BLOCKS HE PLANNED.
I TAKE PRIDE IN ITS SPEED.
THEN KAGOSHIMA—
WE'LL ARRIVE SOON.
ZSSH!
SHIDO TOOK A SMALL FRONTIER VILLAGE BURIED IN SAND...
...AND TURNED IT INTO A GLORIOUS PLACE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY NOTHING GROWS IN THE DESERT?
SHURI.
IT'S THE DESERT, OF COURSE.
THERE'S NO WATER, POOR SOIL, AND IT'S TOO HOT.
THAT'S ALL TRUE. BUT THERE'S A FUNDA-MENTAL PROBLEM.

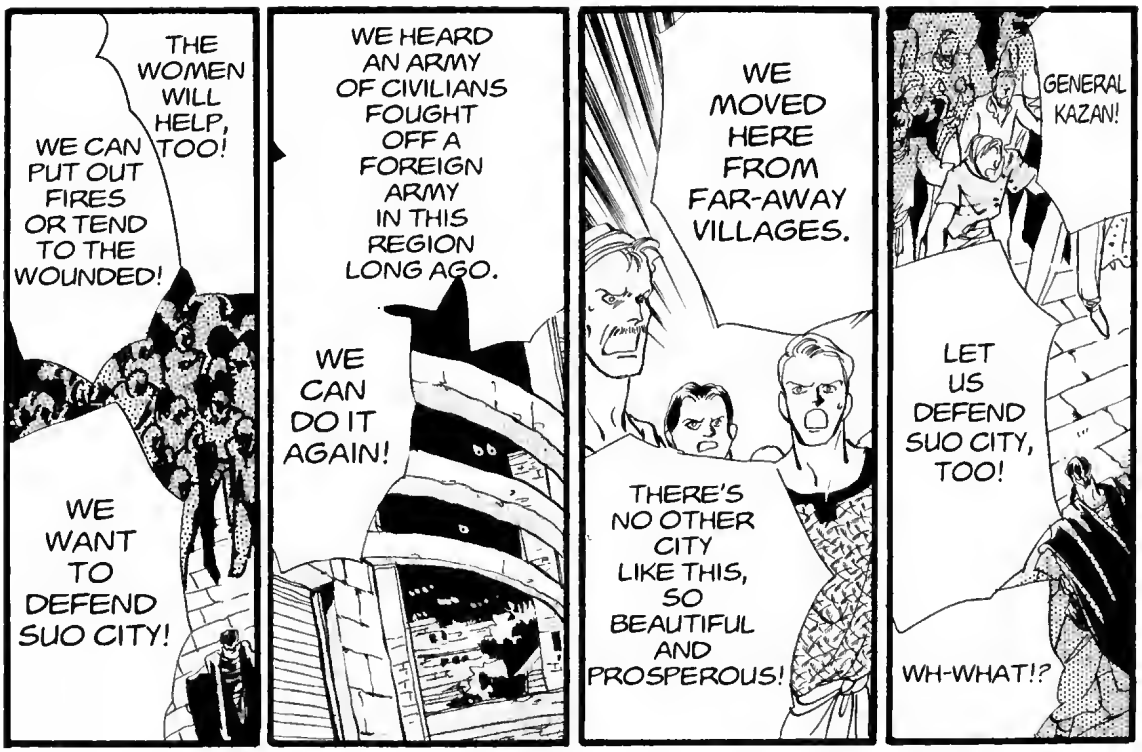
THEN WE IRRIGATE, FERTILIZE, AND CREATE SHADE.
SO WE STABILIZE IT LIKE THIS.
IT'S BECAUSE THE SAND IS ALWAYS ON THE MOVE.
THE WIND BLOWS IT ABOUT.
SEE?
...THAT'S PROSPEROUS AND FREE...
LET'S PLANT CHERRY TREES SOME DAY.
AND PLUMS, PEACHES, AND MAPLE.
LET'S BUILD A CITY...
...AND BETTER PLANNED THAN ANY BEFORE!

...HE PROVIDES THE CANVAS.
NOW AND ALWAYS...
SOME-TIMES
SO I CAN...
I JUST WANT TO HOLD HIM.
...PAINT MY KINGDOM.
THERE IS SO MUCH HISTORY BETWEEN THEM I DO NOT KNOW...
WHAT GENTLE EYES.

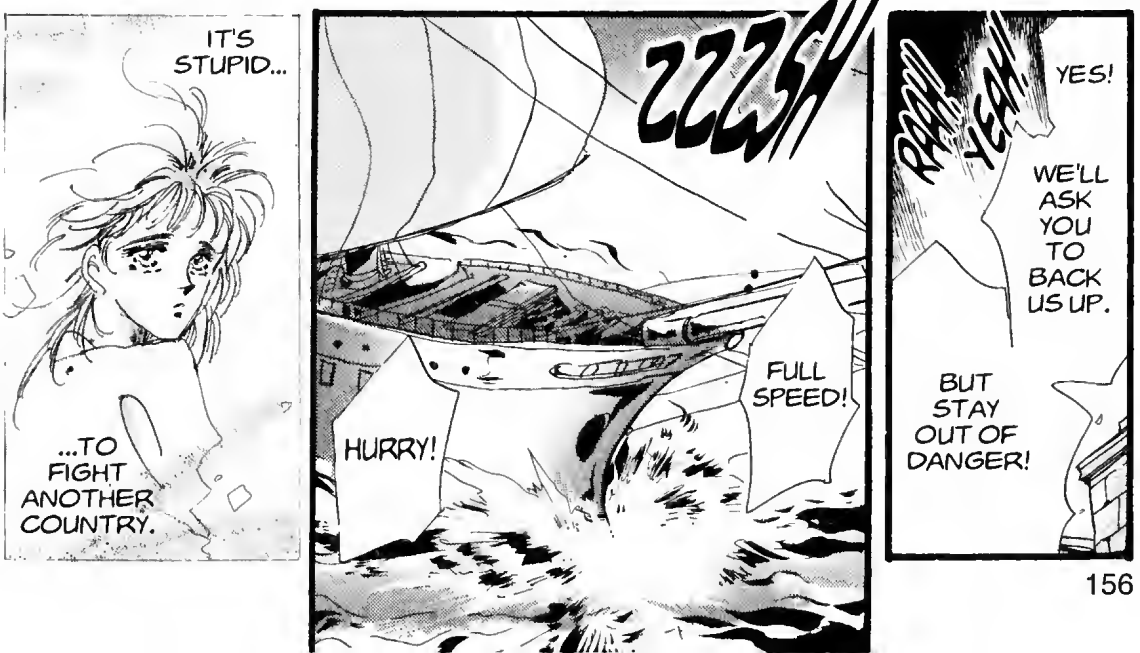
SIRE!
BM BM
SIRE!
A COURIER!
AND PERHAPS, IN TIMES OF NEED...
...IT IS NOT MY NAME LORD SHIDO CALLS.
PERHAPS IT IS HE...
...WHO WANTS TO GO TO LORD SHIDO'S AID.
...MORE THAN ANY-ONE ELSE...

THE UNION FLEET THAT WAS THOUGHT TO BE BEYOND OUR WATERS...
...IS NOW HEADING TOWARD SUO CITY.
DESPITE NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS,
TATARA!
THEY AREN'T RESPONDING TO ANY HAILS!
THEY SEEM BENT ON WAR!
AT 2AM TODAY, THE EUROPEAN UNION MERCHANT VESSEL
WAS FIRED UPON BY SOMEONE NEAR HIKOJIMA HARBOR!
IT HAS SUNK!
THE CAPTURED MARKSMAN CLAIMS HE'S ONE OF TATARA'S MEN!

TURN THE SHIP AROUND.
WE'RE GOING BACK TO SUO CITY.
SIRE!
SIRE!
SIRE!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
OH NO!
ARE WE GOING TO WAR!?
WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO THE CITY!?
A FOREIGN SHIP IS ATTACKING US!
EVERYONE GATHER YOUR BELONGINGS AND PREPARE TO EVACUATE!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG
THE RED KING WILL RETURN SHORTLY ON THE BATTLESHIP CRIMSON!
STAY CALM!


GENERAL KAZAN!
LET US DEFEND SUO CITY, TOO!
WH-WHAT!?
WE MOVED HERE FROM FAR-AWAY VILLAGES.
THERE'S NO OTHER CITY LIKE THIS, SO BEAUTIFUL AND PROSPEROUS!
WE HEARD AN ARMY OF CIVILIANS FOUGHT OFF A FOREIGN ARMY IN THIS REGION LONG AGO.
WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!
THE WOMEN WILL HELP, TOO!
WE CAN PUT OUT FIRES OR TEND TO THE WOUNDED!
WE WANT TO DEFEND SUO CITY!

A-
ALL RIGHT...
ALL RIGHT.


YES!
WE'LL ASK YOU TO BACK US UP.
BUT STAY OUT OF DANGER!
YEAH!
FULL SPEED!
HURRY!
...TO FIGHT ANOTHER COUNTRY.
IT'S STUPID...

WHAT COULD BE WORSE?
...TURNING YOUR OWN LAND INTO A BATTLEFIELD...
SUO CITY HAS BEEN ATTACKED!
SIRE!
IT'S ON FIRE!
JUST LIKE YAMATO IN THE ANCIENT "KOJIKI."
LET'S MAKE THIS CITY BETTER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY OTHER.
UTOPIA, SHURI.

A UTOPIAN LAND.
A SUPREME, BEAUTIFUL CITY.

YOU'LL PAY FOR ATTACKING OUR COUNTRY—
WE'LL SINK ALL EIGHT— NOW!
BEFORE REINFORCE-MENTS COME!
STRIKE!
SETTING IT ON FIRE!
HOW MANY SHIPS?
I SEE EIGHT POINTS OF LIGHT! IT MUST BE THE UNION NAVY'S FAR EAST FLEET.
THEY WERE WAITING FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.
FULL SPEED AHEAD!
GO STRAIGHT INTO THEIR MIDST.
THEY'RE NOT EVEN ALLOW-ING US TIME TO TALK.
HELP LORD SHIDO...
WHAT OF LORD SHIDO?
PLEASE, SIRE...
YEAH!
SIRE!
HURRY!
PRINCESS, IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!

THE RED KING HAS RETURNED!
THE KING!
SIRE!
YAY! YAY!
SIRE!
KSSH
IT'S THE CRIMSON!
!
THE CRIM-SON!?
SIRE! I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM MASTER ASHO!
DON'T MISS A SINGLE TARGET!
GRII
OPEN ALL GUN PORTS!

THE BLUE...
THE BLUE KING,
YOUR BROTHER IN THE EAST,
THEY ARE ALREADY CLOSE TO SUO CITY.
HE IS SENDING REINFORCEMENTS.
FIRE!
WAIT!
DON'T SHOOT!!
D-D-D-D-D
BOOM

BRING ME ASHO AND THE MAN THEY CAPTURED.
SAKAKI! ROW TO SHORE.
YES, SIR!
HURRY!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SHOOT!
DIRECT HITS!
BOOM!!!
CEASE FIRE IMMEDIATELY!
SIRE!?
GOT THAT!? WE MUST NOT RETURN FIRE!
TELL KAZAN NOT TO STRIKE BACK EITHER!
BOOM
BOOM
DAMMIT! HARD TO STARBOARD!
SHUT UP AND DO IT!
YEEK
SIRE! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
BOOOM!!!
TRY TO DODGE THE BLASTS AND KEEP GOING.
DON'T GET HIT.
MY BROTHER SET ME UP!
IT WASN'T TATARA.
TO TAKE MY DOMAIN!
STOP THE SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR FLEET.
BOOM!!!

SSS
SHURI...
HE MUST BE IN QUITE A FIX BY NOW.
THE EURO-PEAN MILITARY BEFORE THEM...
...AND MY SO-CALLED "REINFORCE-MENTS" BEHIND THEM.
I'LL RAISE THE BLUE BANNER IN SUO CITY WHILE THAT RED MONKEY TUSSLES WITH THE FOREIGNERS.
THE RUBY OF THE DESERT THEY CALL SUO.
IT WILL BE MINE!

USE THE PEACH-SCENTED OIL!
THIS IS SO AMUSING.
HEE HEE HEE.
I DON'T MIND GIVING UP KYUSHU IN EXCHANGE.
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU THEN AND THERE.
I KNOW YOU'RE LYING. YOU WEREN'T SENT BY TATARA.
I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU.
SIRE, I'VE BROUGHT THEM.
PORT DECK'S BEEN HIT!
DOOM
SIRE!
I CAN'T EVADE ALL OF THEM!
SHUT UP AND DO IT ANYWAY!
FSHH

IN FULL VIEW OF THE ENEMY!
TIE HIM UP ON THE HIGHEST POINT OF THE MAIN MAST!
GACK !?
YOU DON'T NEED TO TALK.
FINE.
DOOM
YOU WERE SENT BY THE BLUE KING, WEREN'T YOU?
DOOM
I WON'T SAY A WORD.
...TO ABANDON THE SHIP.
AND ORDER EVERY-ONE...
DOOM
FSHH
GO!
TAKE THE PRIN-CESS.
SIRE!
...WHAT!?
SAKAKI, DO WHAT I SAY...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO!?
BUT, SIRE!
ASHO, TRANSLATE EVERYTHING I'M ABOUT TO SAY AND SEND IT TO THE OTHER SIDE.

THIS IS A MESSAGE TO THE COMM-ANDER OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FLEET.
IF YOU DO NOT UNDER-STAND ME...
...I ASK YOU TO READ THE LETTER I'VE SENT OVER.
THE MAN ABOVE ME SANK YOUR MERCH-ANT SHIP.
HE'S A TRAITOR TO MY PEOPLE.
HE DID SO ON SOMEONE ELSE'S ORDERS.
BOOM
BOOM

HOWEVER, AN APOLOGY FROM MY NATION TO YOURS IS EXPECTED.
WE WILL PUNISH THIS MAN OUR-SELVES.
THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT US TO FIGHT
SO THEY MIGHT SEIZE MY LAND.
HE MAY HAVE HAD HELP
FROM WITHIN YOUR RANKS.
MY BROTHER'S ARMY IS COMING.
I HAVE NO TIME TO BE FIGHTING ANOTHER COUNTRY.
AS AN APOLOGY, I OFFER-
THIS!
1
2
3
AS A KING,
I CANNOT GO DOWN ON MY KNEES IN APOLOGY.

SHIDO!

I CAN'T COME TO YOUR AID!
YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH TATARA YOURSELF.
THE CRIMSON...
THE BATTLE-SHIP CRIMSON!
IT'S GONE!
LET US DANCE...
...ATOP DEATH'S BELLY...
...TOGETHER.

INCREDIBLE...
WHAT A GAMBLE.
DESTROYING HIS OWN SHIP!
WHAT WOULD HE DO IF WE TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK?
WHAT CONFIDENCE...
AND WE WILL NOT ATTACK.
WE'RE *NOT* SAVAGES.
WE'LL DISCUSS THIS LIKE CIVILIZED NATIONS.

THIS IS A MAN WITH DIGNITY.
THIS NATION STILL HAS...
...ITS SAMURAI.
THE ONLY SHIP...
...THAT COULD SAVE LORD SHIDO!
THE CRIMSON!
IT'S SINKING!
SIRE! OVER HERE!

SAKURA-JIMA
HOOOO
SAKURA-JIMA IS ANGRY WITH US.
FSHH
IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT...?
FOO
TATARA! WHAT DO WE DO?
WHOA!
KRAK
THE MAST BROKE!
GET US OUT OF HERE!
WE CAN'T STEER!

IS THAT SHURI'S BIRD!?
PWEET
WOOH!
IS THIS... AN OMEN FROM THE FIERY MOUNTAIN...?
A RED BIRD IS IN THE SKY!
IT'S COME BACK!?
HSHH

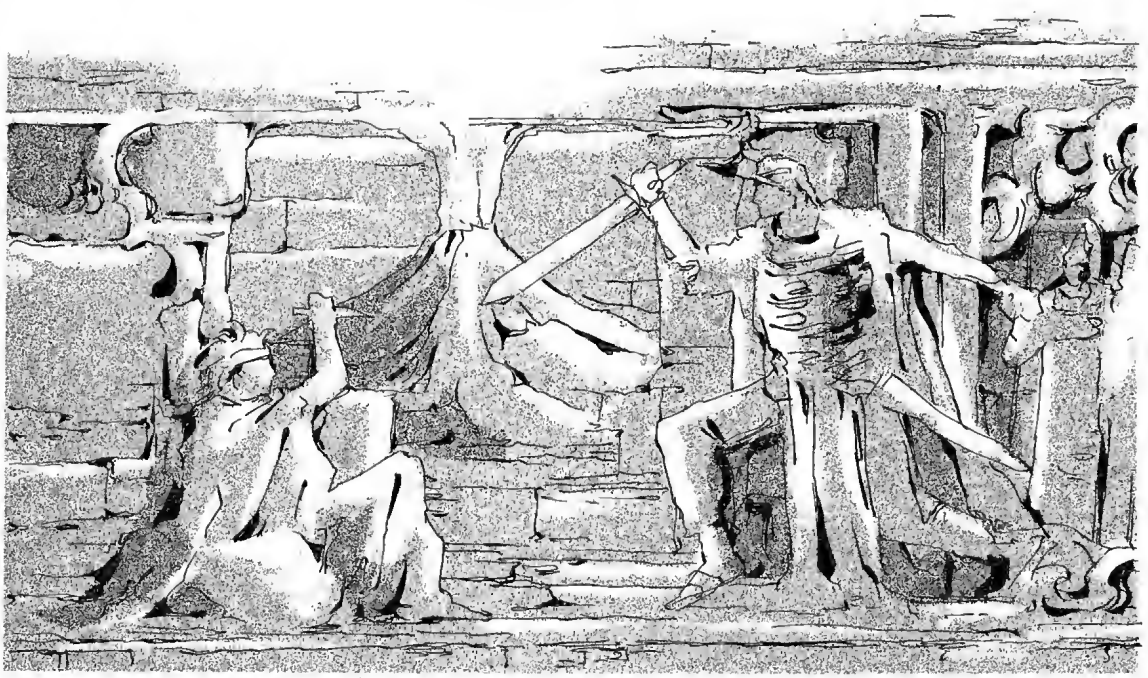
AND THUS HISTORY BEGINS.
ONE DAY, THEY WILL PAINT THE EARTH GREEN.
THE OCEAN BOILS.
JUST LIKE EARTH IN ITS CRADLE.
NAGI ONCE TOLD ME...
I FEEL STRONG AGAIN.
FLAMES FLOW.
TATARA, WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
I WAS JUST THINKING THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
IT FEELS LIKE...
SAKURA-JIMA IS CHEERING FOR US.

IT'S TRYING TO LIVE!
NAGI...
SHURI...
THIS LAND ISN'T DEAD.
I WONDER IF HE'S WATCHING ME FROM SOMEWHERE.
HERE'S AN AUTOGRAPHED SELF-PORTRAIT TO REMEMBER ME BY.
SHURI GOOD LUCK. PS
IT'S SAND NOW...
IT'S ALIVE!
...BUT SOMEDAY IT'LL BE GREEN AGAIN.
P.S. WHO'S A SNOT?
SHURI SNOT.

IT SEEMS LIKE...
...YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO CHEER ME UP.
LORD SHIDO
BOTH THE FUJIN AND RAIJIN ARE IN BAD SHAPE
FOOOM
THE HORSES ARE BOLTING
RETREAT!
RETREAT!
WHIIN
WOOSH
AAAH!
...ON TATARA'S SIDE!?
SHURI....
IS GOD...
I CAN BEAT THE RED ARMY!
NOW.

ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE CONFLICT,
WHICH WOULD LATER BE CALLED
"THE BATTLE OF SAKURAJIMA,"

...THE SUN ROSE THROUGH VOLCANIC ASH.



ANOTHER BONUS

TAM-TAM TIME

TO PASS THE TIME...

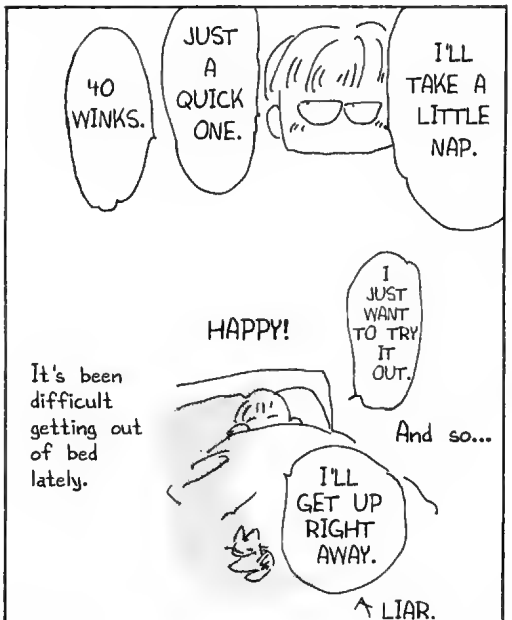
I don't have anything to talk about this volume...

So I'll just write about stuff I like.

Please read this when you have nothing else to do.

"Tam's Anything Capsule ⑤: Roppongi Shinju" came out. Please check it out.

TAMU.



I'M A CUCUMBER! NICE TO MEET YOU!

HELLO, I'M AN OCTOPUS.

But these creatures would never meet in real life.

Nope. Not too likely.

I really love it. It's such an awesome combination.

By the way...

One of my favorite foods is marinated octopus and cucumbers.

Pumpkins and bok choy in winter, and grated radish.

I like fruits too.

I can finally eat carrots and green peppers

...if they've been chopped up finely.

Supposed to be a kiwi.

I also like...
Scallops
Asari clams
Shrimp, crab, squid, octopus!

I basically like all seafood except raw fish.

But I read somewhere...

...that you're not supposed to put different species of plants close together.

My cactus collection has grown.

THANKS, O.

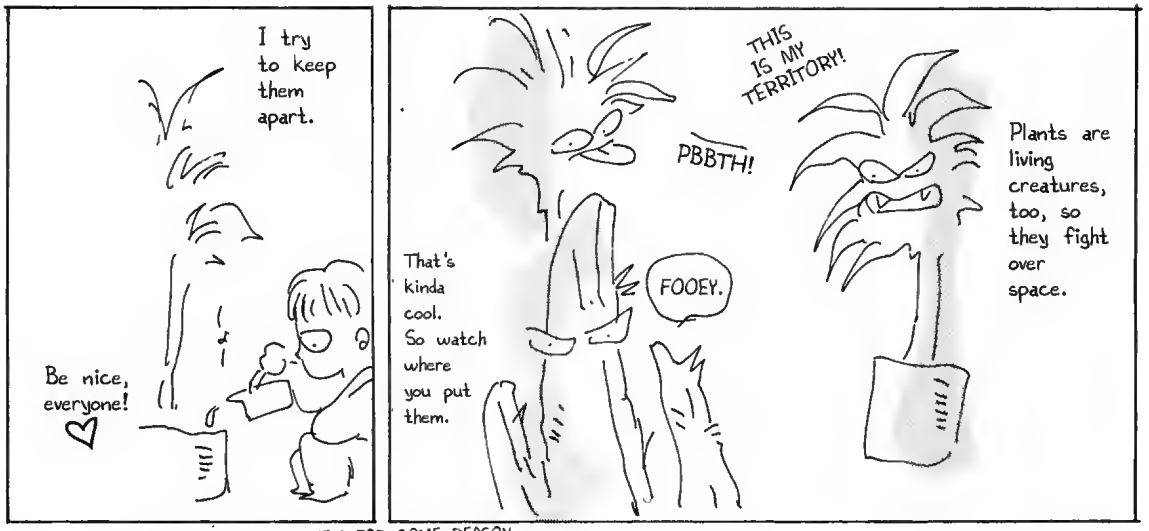
I have them all over my room.

I want a real big one some day.

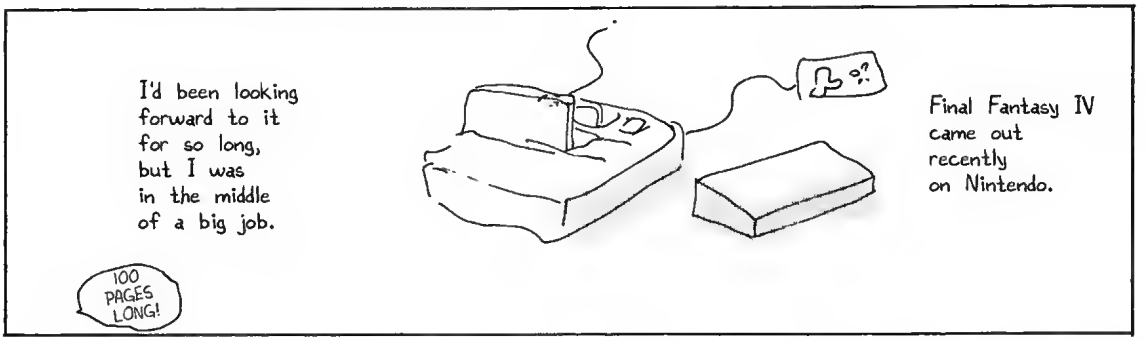
I'M SO GREEDY.

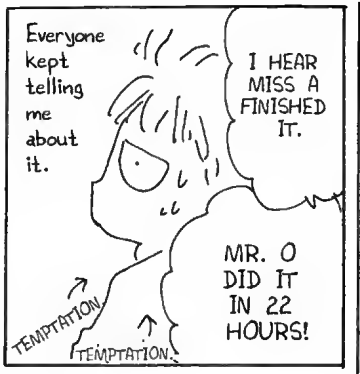
Oh, I got a lot of potted plants as housewarming presents from my readers.

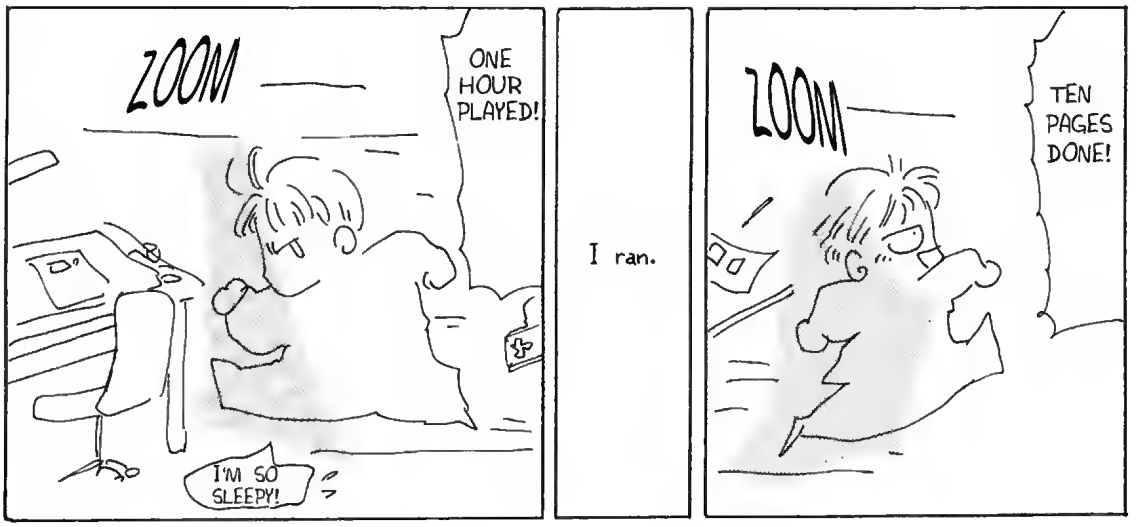
THANKS SO MUCH!

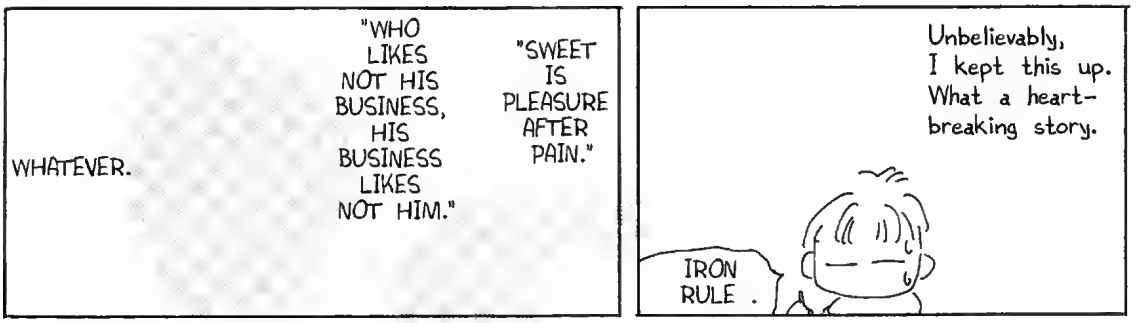


I LOVE WATERING THEM FOR SOME REASON.

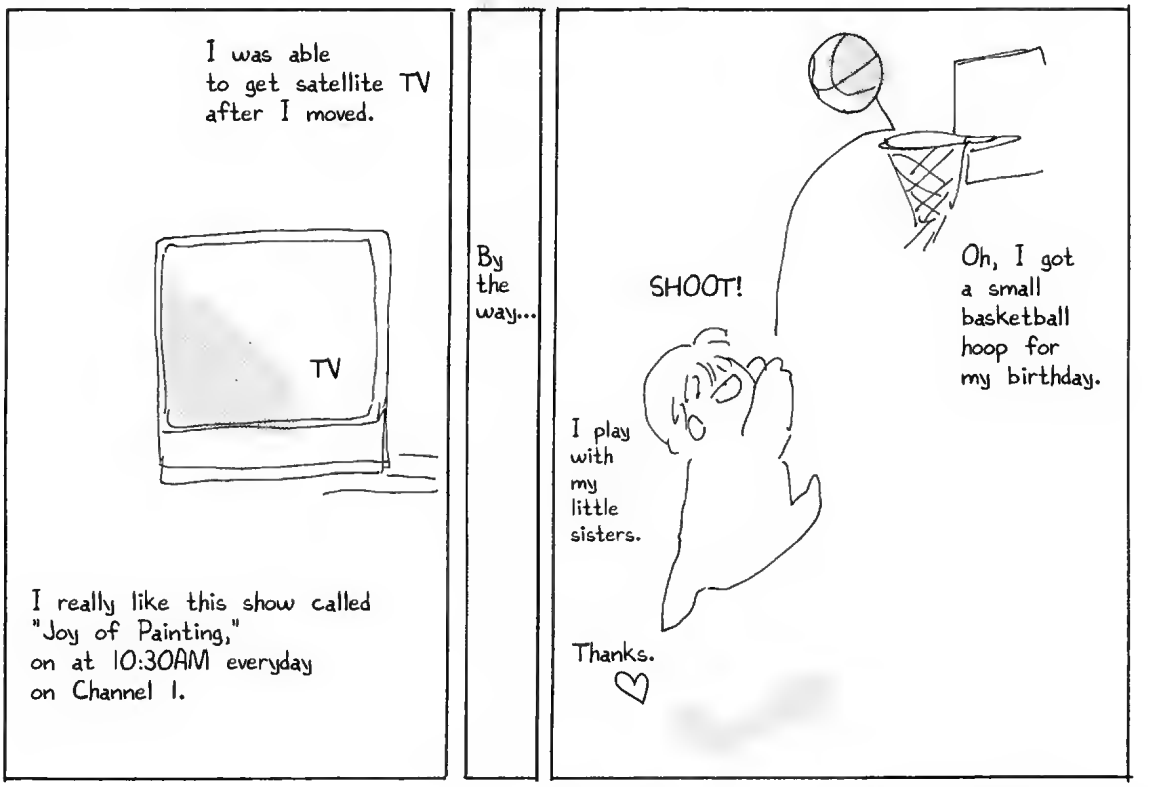








IT'S NOT THAT I THINK WORK IS PAINFUL.



AND THANKS FOR THE TEACUP AND THE SNOWMAN AND THE TAPES AND MUGS. ♡ MY READERS ARE SO NICE. ♡

I've become a big fan, and I try to watch every morning.

Now I want to try oils myself.

"Why I Became a Painter"

He's amazing, and really fun to watch! It's superhuman, if you ask me!

WE'LL PUT A TREE HERE.

AN AMERICAN DUDE.

It's this how-to show where the guy finishes one oil painting in half an hour while he blabs.

I've gotten into sumo wrestling.

"NOKOTTA!

STILL IN PLAY!"

Speaking of recently...

...just like the time with the Track and Field Championships.

I didn't care about it at first, but I gradually got hooked...

IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE KOKUGIKAN SUMO STADIUM.

A long time ago, I went to see a friend's friend compete in the college sumo championships.

At the stadium in Sumida Ward's Ryogoku district in Tokyo.

I feel like I'm a victim of fads.

THE MAWASHI* ARE SO COLORFUL AND PRETTY.

But I can't help following the stories of the brothers Wakanohana and Takanohana.

TERAO IS WEIRD.

*Mawashi are the belts rikishi (sumo wrestlers) wear when fighting. Keshomawashi are the beautiful, one-of-a-kind embroidered aprons worn during the ring-entering ceremony at the beginning of competition.

I really got it as a sport.

But watching it live...

I WANT TO SEE A PRO MATCH ONE DAY.

Until then, I thought sumo was just some boring, traditional event...

...one with a lot of dead time.

I was busy with work all summer.

I want to go swimming.

(Non sequitur)

Hmm, this is a tough problem...

I asked around, but cat-lovers have cats already, and people who live in apartments can't have pets.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO MIGHT WANT ONE?

And lastly, one of my friends called to say a friend of hers found a stray kitten.

G-GIMME A BREAK!

CAN YOU ASK AROUND?

YAY!

Then a manga artist I know and love said she wanted one.

FAX PAPER

No reason for me to get excited, but I was relieved.

When I was little, I used to bring home stray kittens...

...and my parents would tell me I couldn't keep them.

YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

I wonder how the kitten's doing?

I'm sure she's taking good care of him. I'm so glad.

HOLD ON! JUST HOLD ON! I'LL FIND SOMEONE!

OUR CAT HAD KITTENS, BUT WE'RE GOING TO TAKE THEM TO THE POUND.

FRIEND.

Then there's my cat Billy...

Brings back memories.

I used to ask around for takers.

I have to make sure sometimes. But his answer is always "fnarr."

FNARR

ARE YOU HAPPY?

Are you glad you came here?

ARE YOU HAPPY?

At first I didn't know what to do with him.

But now I'm happy he's here.

Really happy.

And so he came to my house.

Nobody wanted him, so my friend told me to take him myself.

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KEEP PETS HERE...

Well...

I've been rambling on for a while.

Thanks for your continued support!

MY FIRST NOVEL IS COMING OUT FROM PALETTE BOOKS. IT'S CALLED "A CARRIAGE IS COMING AT MIDNIGHT." PLEASE, TAKE A LOOK.

BUY THE TOMOE VIDEO!

MY RESPONSES TO YOUR LETTERS ARE TAKING A WHILE. I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROJECT RIGHT NOW.

TAMU.

SEE YOU LATER. TAKE CARE.

Recommendations

If you enjoyed *Basara*, please try these other graphic novels:

Chicago
From *Basara's* creator, Yumi Tamura, *Chicago* is an action-packed short series set in the near future. Capable Rei and her seasoned partner Uozumi are survivors. After being deployed to a half-finished manmade island to search for earthquake survivors, their military rescue squad is bombed. Discovering the mysterious forces behind the bombing becomes their personal goal as they join a private rescue force that gathers secretly in a Shinjuku bar called "Chicago."

Banana Fish
Currently running in the anthology *Animerica Extra*, Amiki Yoshida's most famous series is filled with gritty action. When a man is gunned down in the gang-infested back alleys of 1980's New York City, it begins a complicated series of events that cause gang leader Ash to go up against mafia don "Papa" Dino. The series sends Ash and his allies across the country and against political intrigues in search of the truth behind the mysterious and deadly substance "Banana Fish."

Vagabond
One of the best action artists out there, Takehiko Inoue puts his skills to the test in this extraordinary series. Inspired by Eiji Yoshikawa's classic samurai story *Musashi*, *Vagabond* is the tale of an unfocused soldier on the losing side of history. Takezo's initial goal of survival escalates the violence around him, turning him into a homicidal wildman. Through the way of the sword, he must transform himself from brute to saint.

Editor's comments

I remember the first time I came across *Basara*. It was while I was teaching English in Japan. Basara was one of those titles all the girls in my classes shared. Only well-loved favorites found their way onto the homeroom bookshelves. This made it easier to figure out which titles to try, easier still when the students would loan them to me.

The first time I flipped through *Basara*, I didn't get it. The art wasn't "pretty;" the story seemed really harsh. What was all the fuss about? Well, maybe if I'd actually *read* it, I would have figured it out! A girl raised in the shadow of her twin brother suddenly having to take his place is emotionally intriguing enough for a whole series. Add to that the most amazing of love stories–a young couple falling in love, sharing the same goals, yet they are enemies ignorant of each other's true identities–that's enough for another whole series right there!

The heroine, Sarasa, is unlike your average shojo heroine because there is no other shojo manga artist like Yumi Tamura. She writes about tough, strong heroines in harsh situations, pitching fluffy, stereotypical ideas about shojo manga out the window. Sarasa is never coddled, and her knowledge and wits are vital to her success.

With such a strong heroine, the Shakespearian romance, dynamic emotional and martial conflict, is it any wonder *Basara* became one of the most successful series of the 1990's? Once I gave *Basara* a second look, I borrowed all of it. Then I bought the series for myself. Now my habit of lending the series to friends can expand to include those who don't read Japanese. It's an honor to be a part of bringing this remarkable series to English.